UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
13th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 16 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.13
31 October 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

90-56318 2800S (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/45/3, A/45/74, A/45/185-E/1990/48, A/45/256-E/1990/58, A/45/257-E/1990/61, A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1, A/45/278 and Corr.1, A/45/292-E/1990/82, A/45/303, A/45/327, A/45/329, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/338-E/1990/103, A/45/342-E/1990/102, A/45/381-E/1990/118, A/45/584, A/45/598; E/1990/91, E/1990/94, E/1990/96; A/C.2/45/3; A/C.2/45/L.2* and L.3)

1. Mr. AHMED (Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs) introduced the report on national entrepreneurs in economic development (A/45/292-E/1990/82) which suggested various ways of promoting entrepreneurship. The Economic and Social Council had engaged in a lively debate on the subject at its second regular session and had submitted a draft resolution on the topic to the Second Committee (A/C.2/45/L.2*). The Department of International Economic and Social Affairs was intensifying its efforts in that area and planned in 1991 to convene regional symposia in Asia and Eastern Europe on entrepreneurship and economic development and an African symposium on financial sector development. The Department had organized an international conference on the latter topic in Denmark in May 1990.

2. Consumer protection was no longer regarded a luxury for the wealthy, but a necessity for the poor, and in June 1990, the Department had convened, at the headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, a regional seminar on consumer protection financed by the Australian Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The growing importance which Member States attached to consumer protection had been clearly evident during the debate in the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990. In its resolution 1990/85, the Council had urged all Governments to continue their efforts to implement the guidelines on consumer protection outlined in General Assembly resolution 39/248 and recommended the development of an action programme for the next five years. The implementation of such activities would depend on the availability of extrabudgetary resources, therefore all Governments which were in a position to do so should support that important programme.

3. With regard to the issue of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), which was addressed in the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) (A/45/256), he said that for the first time, WHO had issued estimates of the number of paediatric AIDS cases - 400,000 - of which the vast majority (90 per cent) had occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, in the next 10 years, 10 million children, of whom the majority would be in developing countries, would be infected. WHO had recently raised its estimates of the number of infected adults. Those figures emphasized the seriousness of the pandemic for both developed and developing countries throughout the world. The spread of the infection to more and more families would severely strain health and social systems in the hard-hit countries. The United Nations had placed particular emphasis on the social and economic aspects of the disease and, in that context, the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had intensified its research on the

socio-economic and developmental impact of AIDS on developing countries. The Department proposed to undertake a comprehensive country approach to assessing that impact, so that policy-makers could take it into account in their development planning.

4. The report on the mid-term review of the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997) (A/45/277 and Add.1), which had been drawn up in implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/238, contained a summary of the replies received from Governments and United Nations bodies. While few replies have been received, they all in principle supported the idea of undertaking such a review.

5. Finally, the achievements of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (analysed in document A/45/327), which was drawing to a close, were largely positive: there had a been significant improvement in the area of safe water and a stabilization of the situation with regard to adequate sanitation, in spite of serious economic difficulties and devastating droughts; more importantly, there appeared to be a clear understanding of the need to integrate water supply and sanitation within the context of water resource management. Unfortunately, the task that lay ahead in the 1990s was none the less staggering. The General Assembly must provide recommendations for further action by Governments and the international community in order to maintain the momentum gathered during the Decade and even to increase the pace by developing inter-agency co-operation and co-ordination under the auspices of the United Nations Inter-agency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and the Collaborative Council.

6. Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that he would concentrate on the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade 1981-1990 (document A/45/327). As the supply of drinking water and sanitation were crucial to health, the environment and development, UNDP had supported hundreds of programmes, chaired the United Nations Inter-agency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action and created a Collaborative Council which was chaired by one of its senior officials.

7. During the 1980s more than 1.3 billion new users had gained access to safe water in the developing countries and an additional 700 million persons had been provided with sanitary facilities. In collaboration with a number of bilateral donors and international organizations, UNDP had also assisted in the development of appropriate and affordable technologies in that area. Unfortunately, despite those achievements, nearly 2 billion persons, or one third of mankind, remained without adequate supplies of safe drinking water or proper sanitation.

8. To build on the lessons learned during the Decade, UNDP had organized the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s at New Delhi the month before. The numerous participants had demonstrated a remarkable degree o unanimity on measures to be taken during the 1990s. The New Delhi Statement (A/C.2/45/3) adopted there set out the guiding principles which should lead to the

READEX FICHE

(Mr. Gomez)

provision of safe drinking water for all. Briefly stated, they were: protection of the environment and safeguarding of health through the integrated management of water resources and wastes; institutional reforms promoting an integrated approach while ensuring the full participation of women; promotion of community management of services; and the adoption of sound financial practices.

9. The modest success achieved during the 1980s in meeting the targets set by the General Assembly 10 years earlier should not obscure the failures that had occurred. It was the poor, and especially the urban poor in the poorest countries, who must be served during the decade to come. UNDP would continue its activities in the 1990s with increased vigour. The Committee's deliberations on the Decade and the results of the New Delhi Consultation would be brought to the attention of all UNDP resident representatives, who would endeavour to sustain and even substantially increase the momentum generated during the Decade. It was to be hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the New Delhi Consultation so that everyone might have access to safe drinking water and sanitation services by the end of the century.

10. Mrs. BRUGGEMANN (World Health Organization) introduced the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) on the global strategy for the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/45/256), prepared in implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/233. The report provided an overview of the global epidemiology of AIDS and went on to describe the efforts of various United Nations bodies to promote AIDS prevention and control activities and to deal with the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects of the pandemic. The report was based on contributions from all the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system which were members of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group established by WHO.

11. WHO estimated that at least 8 to 10 million people were infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and that by the year 2000 the cumulative total would reach 25 to 30 million. Unless more effective drugs were developed, half of those infected would develop AIDS within 10 years. Heterosexual transmission was increasing (currently accounting for 60 per cent of all cases and, a projected 80 per cent of all cases by the year 2000), and the rate of new infections was growing at an alarming rate in developing countries. The number of women with AIDS was on the rise, especially in Africa, a fact that was particularly disturbing in view of the risk of perinatal infection. Currently, about 700,000 infected infants had been born, most of them in developing countries, and forecasts predicted that at least 10 million children would have been infected, and that most of them would be dead of AIDS, by the year 2000. In addition, 10 million children would be orphaned when their parents died of AIDS. The situation was not entirely bleak, however. A number of national prevention programmes had been successful, various anti-viral agents had been developed and dozens of vaccines were being tested.

12. Given the rapid spread of AIDS, it was imperative that all United Nations organizations and agencies as well as non-governmental organizations which contributed to the global AIDS strategy should intensify their efforts. Member States must also increase their financial support, as the Administrator of UNDP had

(Mrs. Bruggemann, WHO)

noted at the most recent meeting of the Governing Council when describing the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS.

13. Current WHO priorities were to strengthen the organization's collaboration with national programmes to combat AIDS and to accelerate research and development activities (particularly the testing of new drugs and vaccines). WHO also continued to deal innovatively with the problem of complacency vis-à-vis the pandemic and to play a leading role in the area of non-discrimination against infected persons. Her organization looked forward to continuing to work closely with United Nations organizations and the many non-governmental organizations in an effort to contain that tragedy.

14. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the rapid and profound changes which had taken place in the world and the growing importance of multilateral action, which was the best - and occasionally the only - strategy for solving world economic problems, would create new tasks for the Economic and Social Council.

15. In the future, the Council's work would consist of giving concrete form to the consensus reflected in the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session. The general debate had shown that, for many delegations, the Declaration marked the beginning of a new era in the economic activities of the United Nations, and it was all the more important that the principles reflected in it should become more than mere words and create a context for reinterpreting and restructuring all of the Organization's economic and social activities, taking new realities into account. The Economic and Social Council should become both a promoter of such new ideas within the United Nations and the co-ordinator of the various activities undertaken in that context. The task of adapting the social and economic activities of the United Nations - particularly at the level of structures and intergovernmental mechanisms - to contemporary realities and problems also appeared in a new light. His delegation noted with satisfaction that at the Council's second regular session of 1990, many countries had declared their willingness to give serious consideration to those issues, with a view to increasing the Organization's contribution to the development of international economic co-operation. The consultations that the President of the Council would hold on that topic during the coming year should lead to universally acceptable solutions.

16. The events in the Persian Gulf were testing the Organization's capacity to serve as a world focal point for concerted crisis resolution efforts, and it was clear both from Security Council resolutions and from the general debate in the General Assembly that it was essential, not only for peace and security, but also for the smooth functioning of the international economy, that the crisis generated by Iraq's attack on Kuwait should be settled. Under the current circumstances, the economic, energy, social and human consequences of the crisis might be considered by the Economic and Social Affairs or the Second Committee, for example. Largely as a result of co-operation between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the LINK project (analysis and forecasting of world economic

(Mr. Kudryavtsev, USSR)

trends), the Secretariat was equipped to prepare for such a debate. Member States would then have an opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue, within the framework of the United Nations, between oil producers and consumers. Such an undertaking would be particularly useful given that the lack of a solution to economic and energy problems was as volatile as the continued occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi troops. The ideas put forward by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and by the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs regarding the establishment, under United Nations auspices, of an intergovernmental mechanism to formulate solutions in the energy sector that were acceptable to all should be given careful consideration.

17. During the coming year, the Economic and Social Council would hold consultations on the impact of the changes in East-West relations on the global economy. At the Council's most recent session, member States had expressed broad support for the reforms undertaken by the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe and the willingness of those countries to integrate themselves fully in the world economy. Future discussions should be held at a high level, at the ministerial level if possible. They should result in a political document, adopted by consensus, which would be the concrete expression of the international community's political support for the efforts of the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe and would determine the thrust of activities in that area. The success of the discussions in the Economic and Social Council on East-West issues would enhance the Council's authority and consolidate the practice of holding Council sessions at the ministerial level to consider important problems in the economic and social field.

18. An assessment of the Council's work during the past year revealed that the trend towards a search for mutual understanding was becoming more pronounced. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council had adopted resolution 1990/50 on international co-operation to mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. That resolution, which had been sponsored by 63 States, expressed a commitment to international co-operation that was not based on blocs. It was to be hoped that the documents which the Secretariat was preparing for the debate on that item would contain serious and well thought out recommendations.

19. It was fortunate that Council resolution 1990/52, on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments, had been adopted by consensus. Steps would now have to be taken to ensure that Member States derived real benefits from it, particularly by receiving timely information about new trends; that would strengthen the Organization's role in crisis prevention.

20. Other important results of the session included the development of international co-operation to combat AIDS, and co-operation in the fields of informatics, natural disaster reduction and consumer protection.

(Mr. Kudryavtsev, USSR)

21. Many States had taken part in the preparation of the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations. The Soviet Union, which had begun to integrate its economy into the world economy, believed that, if adopted by consensus, the code could be an important instrument for the international regulation of foreign investments. At its current session, the Second Committee would consider a draft resolution on the role of entrepreneurship in economic development. If the negotiations proceeded in a constructive manner, the result could be a decision which would be acceptable to all and which would reflect the convergence of views of Member States on the development of initiative, self-reliance and entrepreneurship in all sectors of economic activity.

22. In conclusion, he drew attention to an observation made by the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization (A/45/1): "As the work of the Security Council demonstrates a new sense of purpose and a fresh determination to protect and promote peace, one should like to see a similar development in the Economic and Social Council."

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

23. The CHAIRMAN said that the general debate had demonstrated the readiness of many delegations to go beyond the usual issues.

24. Virtually all speakers had referred to the situation in the Gulf region, and had expressed concern about its consequences for development, in particular in the oil-importing developing countries and the least developed countries. A number of proposals had been made, relating, inter alia, to the convening of a conference on oil under United Nations auspices, the role of the United Nations in the co-ordination of assistance to the most seriously affected countries and the establishment of compensatory financing mechanisms by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Many delegations had also expressed concern that the crisis could rekindle inflation in the industrialized countries and cause interest rates to rise, with dire consequences for the heavily indebted countries. Other delegations, however, had observed that the crisis was only a temporary situation and had been more the result of speculation than of real market forces. The recent changes in Eastern Europe had, in general, been welcomed, and virtually all delegations had agreed that, despite the short-term difficulties, in the long run those changes would benefit all countries. The fear had been expressed that assistance to Eastern Europe would take place at the expense of developing countries; however, many delegations looked forward to the special high-level meeting which the Economic and Social Council would hold on that issue in the summer of 1991.

25. With respect to peace, security and economic development, many speakers had welcomed the end of the cold war and of the ideological divide which had separated East and West. However, they had deplored the continuing divide between North and South. Progress in the political field had not been paralleled by advances in social and economic development. While there could be no real development without

(The Chairman)

peace and security, peace and security would be fragile and precarious if there was no development. A few speakers had endorsed the proposal to establish within the United Nations a structure similar to that of the Security Council, to deal with social, economic and environmental issues.

26. While the foregoing were essentially political questions with a profound impact on the world economy, the basic economic questions which had dominated the agenda of the Second Committee for many years had loomed large in the debate. The first issue concerned external debt. All delegations were agreed that an early and durable solution to the debt problem was urgently needed, and that that was the joint responsibility of debtors, creditors and multilateral financial institutions. Many speakers had welcomed the recent initiatives, but had stressed that much remained to be done. Delegations looked forward to the report on debt by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on debt. While many delegations had agreed that countries bore the main responsibility for their development, national policies could be effective only in a favourable international economic environment. Many delegations had stressed the importance of external development financing and a few had seen a role for the United Nations in assessing the efficiency of aid and promoting a dialogue between donors and recipients.

27. With regard to international trade, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations had received widespread attention. All delegations had expressed the hope that the negotiations would be successful but many were concerned at the lack of progress in the face of increasing protectionism, unilateralism and bilateralism.

28. For many delegations, the relationship between environment and development, which was one of the key issues of the 1990s, was also a source of concern. While almost all delegations recognized the need to integrate environmental questions into development objectives, many believed that, without economic development, the developing countries would not be able to deal adequately with environmental issues. Those countries required additional financial resources as well as access to environmentally sound technologies. Since the industrial countries were the main source of pollution, they bore a particular responsibility in that area, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which would be held in 1992, provided a unique opportunity for international co-operation to deal with pollution.

29. With regard to the human factor, most delegations had stressed the need to eradicate poverty, eliminate hunger and develop human resources. Many delegations had also drawn attention to the need to reduce rates of population growth and improve the role and status of women. In general, the response to the World Summit for Children had been favourable. Some delegations had stressed the importance of human rights, democracy, popular participation and pluralism as guarantees of social justice, although democracy was difficult in conditions of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease.

30. Poverty was particularly acute in the least developed countries. Many delegations had welcomed the results of the Second United Nations Conference on the

(The Chairman)

Least Developed Countries, although those results might be jeopardized by the Gulf crisis. The situation of those countries was particularly difficult not only because they were importers of oil but also because they derived their export earnings from commodities, the prices of which remained depressed.

31. Finally, virtually all delegations had referred to the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, and to the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and many had hailed the new spirit of consensus and the commitment to revitalize growth and development in the developing countries. Moreoever, the work in the Second Committee during the past few days had been further evidence of that commitment.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
14th meeting
held on
Tuesday, 16 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.14
22 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-56324 2719S (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/45/3, A/45/74, A/45/185-E/1990/48, A/45/256-E/1990/58, A/45/257-E/1990/61, A/45/277 and Add.1-E/1990/77, A/45/278 and Corr.1, A/45/292-E/1990/82, A/45/303, A/45/327, A/45/329, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/338-E/1990/103, A/45/342-E/1990/102, A/45/381-E/1990/118, A/45/584, A/45/598; A/C.2/45/3; A/C.2/45/L.2*, L.3; E/1990/91, E/1990/94, E/1990/96)

1. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that, while the recent political and economic changes in the world had paved the way for a new framework of international relations, they had also created considerable uncertainty about the future of international co-operation for development. In its recent ministerial Declaration contained in document A/45/584, the Group of 77 had stated that in an increasingly interdependent world, development depended both on the efforts of the developing countries and on a favourable international economic environment.

2. The report of the Economic and Social Council (A/45/3) contained a number of issues of interest to the Group of 77. Among them was the question of trends in the transfer of resources in and to developing countries and their repercussions on the growth and sustained development of those countries, which would be considered further by the Committee under agenda item 79. Pending that debate, he reiterated the Group's conviction that the current adverse trend must be reversed as soon as possible.

3. Reviewing the resolutions and decisions of the Council adopted on the basis of proposals by the Group, he said that Council resolution 1990/57 requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session regarding new institutional developments affecting the strengthening of international organizations in the area of multilateral trade, bearing in mind paragraph 32 of the Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly. In its original proposal, the Group had referred also to paragraph 22 of that Declaration.

4. The Group's proposal that the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session on the status of negotiations on the code of conduct on transnational corporations should be transmitted to the General Assembly had been adopted without amendment as Council decision 1990/274. The Group favoured conclusion of a code of conduct reflecting a fair balance between the interests of developing countries and the interests of the transnational corporations operating in the countries of the Group.

5. The Group's proposal regarding the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular, the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, involving the inclusion in the agenda for the Assembly's current session of an item on the subject and calling for reports to be submitted to the Council at its second regular session in 1991 by the governing bodies, organizations and other entities of the United Nations system

(Mr. Navajas-Monro, Bolivia)

regarding measures taken by them and by Governments with a view to the implementation of the Declaration, had been adopted without significant amendments as Council resolution 1990/54. The Group was currently preparing a new draft resolution on the topic.

6. Regarding assistance in cases of natural disasters and other disaster situations by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Group's proposal on which subject had been adopted by the Council as resolution 1990/63, the recent ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 had welcomed the establishment of the secretariat and Special Fund of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and had called upon States Members of the United Nations and member countries to make generous contributions to the Fund.

7. In keeping with efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council, the Group had proposed the convening of a special high-level meeting of the Council on 4-5 July 1991 to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation. The proposal had been adopted without significant amendments as Council resolution 1990/68. In view of the great interest it had awakened in the international community, as the first serious attempt to broach the issue at the highest possible level of representation, the Group had also considered the possibility of submitting the resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, under item 12 (k).

8. With respect to Operation Lifeline Sudan, its proposal regarding which had been adopted by the Council without significant amendments as resolution 1990/67, the Group hoped that relevant information would be included in the oral report of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Emergency and Relief Operations in the Sudan to the Third Committee, and in the report to be submitted to the Assembly.

9. The Council had taken note of the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, to be considered again at the current session under item 79. The position of the Group on that topic, contained in the recent ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, stressed the need to exploit and utilize new and renewable energy sources in order to take a rational approach to the energy problems of all countries, especially the developing countries, in conformity with the fundamental objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

10. The questions that the Council was to keep under review included the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council. The Group's proposals in that respect had been adopted by the Council without significant amendments as resolution 1990/69. Given the importance of those provisions, the Group hoped that they would be applied as soon as possible.

11. Another important text was Council resolution 1990/58 on international co-operation in the field of informatics, proposed by the Group and adopted, with

(Mr. Navajas-Mogro, Bolivia)

some amendments, following intense consultations with other groups and delegations. In a world increasingly linked to advances in communications technology, especially with regard to the quality of information, the report and recommendations called for in the resolution would redound to the benefit of all countries.

12. Finally, the Council had taken note of the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its sixteenth special session.

13. Mr. ZUPANJEVAC (Yugoslavia) said that one of the main characteristics of the Council's summer session had been its ability to focus on a smaller number of major issues. The net outflow of resources from developing countries, the need to achieve a broad and durable solution to the debt crisis, protection of the environment, human resources development and, in particular, the impact of the recent evolution in East-West relations on international economic co-operation had been the key issues of its deliberations. One of the highlights of the session had been the informal discussion on the economic repercussions of the East-West rapprochement on the position of developing countries, which had represented an excellent preparation for and contribution to the high-level meeting on the subject to be held at the special meeting the following year, which, he hoped, would be attended at the ministerial level. The success of the informal exchange of views should also give further impetus to efforts to revitalize the work of the Council, in which the new approach of addressing major policy themes on the basis of a multi-year work programme was an important factor.

14. The wider issue of the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council and its adaptation to the profound changes in international relations had also been an important item at the summer session. His delegation wished to stress the importance of the Secretary-General's opening statement at Geneva pointing out that the concept of security had been broadened and now also included economic and social factors. The Economic and Social Council could play a crucial role in that regard.

15. Turning to agenda item 12, sub-item (e), International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, he said that supplying the population with drinking water and meeting its other water needs and those of the economy, together with satisfactory disposal of waste material, were the basic prerequisites for the protection and enhancement of human health. In 1979, his Government had adopted the Action Plan of the United Nations Water Conference, which had called for the designation of the Decade. In 1984, in its resolution on the basic policy on health protection of citizens, the Yugoslav Parliament had laid the foundations for the protection and enhancement of the environment, particularly water supply. In that context, it had considered relevant reports on the implementation of the goals of the International Decade. In 1988, an estimated 91.2 per cent of the urban population and 67 per cent of the total population of Yugoslavia had been supplied with water from mains. In the same year, 79.1 per cent of the urban population and 59.9 per cent of the total population had been living in apartments or houses connected to sewage systems.

(Mr. Zupanjevac, Yugoslavia)

16. In June 1990, in co-operation with the European office of the World Health Organization, a seminar had been held at Dubrovnik on the reasons for the failure to achieve the goals of the International Decade. It had been proposed that those goals should continue to be pursued until the year 2000. The Yugoslav strategy for the protection of the environment had been reviewed by experts from the World Bank, and was now being discussed in the Yugoslav Parliament. A programme on the realization of priority environmental projects had also been devised, and would be submitted to the World Bank and regional banks for financing. The projects included plans for water supply, construction of sewage systems and protection of rivers from pollution. In his country's view, due consideration should be given to the proposal that part of developing countries' debt could be converted into loans for the implementation of the goals of the International Decade.

17. Turning to measures that Yugoslavia had taken in its efforts to prevent and control the AIDS pandemic, he said that since the discovery of the first case in 1985, 131 people were known to have contracted the virus. Of that number, 78 had died of complications arising from the illness. As soon as the first case had been reported, measures had been taken to prevent the further spread of the virus. Expert information had been disseminated to health professionals. A special government commission had been established, and in 1987 a country-wide orientation programme for protection against AIDS had been drafted. Specific subprogrammes had been introduced in the country's constituent republics. The commission had established close contacts with the World Health Organization collaboration centre in Paris, resulting in country-wide activities aimed at providing the population with information on AIDS. A number of books had been published, and two symposia had been held.

18. A mid-term programme on AIDS prevention for the period 1991-1995 had been established. The basic goals of the programme were: (a) prevention of transmission of the HIV virus, especially among high-risk groups; (b) reduction of morbidity and mortality resulting from the illness; and (c) limitation of the negative impact of HIV on individuals, groups and society as a whole. Its recommendations were designed to prevent the spread of AIDS among high-risk members of the population, and to educate those involved in caring for the sick. His delegation believed that a United Nations system-wide campaign should be launched to provide financial and other back-up to the World Health Organization's efforts to help developing countries combat the disease.

19. Mr. YENEL (Turkey), speaking on sub-item (i) of agenda item 12, said that the main objective of a global AIDS strategy was to prevent the further spread of the pandemic, while at the same time trying to find a cure. It was thus natural that the report of the Economic and Social Council should focus primarily on that aspect. However, his delegation believed that another aspect of the strategy was no less important, namely: what to do with those who were currently HIV positive. While both prevention and total cure appeared to be a remote prospect, improvements in treatment were now prolonging the lives of those infected. The question of how society dealt with AIDS sufferers, particularly children, would thus become increasingly prominent. Governments, international organizations and other groups

(Mr. Yenel, Turkey)

had a duty to promote greater awareness about transmission of the disease, and about how to deal with those who had contracted the virus. There was still considerable ignorance concerning AIDS in all countries and all segments of society, even among the well-educated. Irrational fear led to people with AIDS being shunned and turned into outcasts. In an allegedly enlightened age, society must overcome its fears and display compassion, so that those infected could be integrated or reintegrated into everyday life. Two parallel approaches were needed, one for children, who needed special protection, and the other for adults. Future studies on AIDS should consider those aspects of the question and offer appropriate guidance on the social implications of the disease.

20. Ms. HJELT (Sweden), speaking on sub-item (i) of agenda item 12 on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that HIV incidence in many developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, was already so widespread that it was having a severe impact on society and the economy. In the most seriously affected countries, HIV/AIDS was no longer just a health issue, but had turned into a development problem, affecting the overall socio-economic well-being of individuals, families and nations. AIDS mortality would lead to substantial demographic changes. Deaths resulting from AIDS would have an impact on agriculture and industrial production. The domestic impact would have severe consequences for women already shouldering heavy burdens in the family and in food production. With adults dying, more and more orphans and elderly persons were being left without providers.

21. Health and education infrastructures and other social sectors in developing countries were often weak. Financial resources and trained personnel were scarce. Implementation of AIDS prevention strategies was thus an enormous challenge to affected countries and the international community. Not only the health sector, but the whole of society must be actively involved in addressing the problem and its economic and social consequences. Strategies at national, district and local levels had to be developed. A community approach was essential, so that the strategies and institutional framework for support, including support from different donor agencies, could benefit from the experience of people in the affected community.

22. In the international family, the World Health Organization had been assigned the leading role in the fight against AIDS. Increased commitment by other United Nations agencies and international organizations was now necessary. The Nordic countries urged UNDP to strengthen its resources within the WHO/UNDP Alliance, so that country activities could be implemented on a broad scale. Other United Nations agencies, such as UNICEF, UNESCO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as organizations such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), must provide increased resources and step up their activities to prevent the spread of AIDS.

23. The Nordic countries provided substantial support to AIDS prevention programmes, both through the United Nations system and bilaterally. They wished to reiterate their call for an increased level of development assistance during the

(Ms. Hjelt, Sweden)

early years of the decade. Assigning higher priority to the health and social sectors must be seen as a prerequisite for development.

24. Prevention of sexual transmission was a sine qua non in fighting AIDS. The pandemic had passed the risk-group stage, and there was now a risk in all population groups. Broad public education was still one of the most effective ways of curbing the pandemic. People needed to know how infection occurred, and how to take precautions. Behaviour and practices that placed individuals at risk were likely to be established in adolescence or young adulthood. To encourage behavioural change in those age groups might well alter the entire course of the pandemic. To achieve that, information in schools was fundamental. Young people were entitled to the knowledge and support that would enable them to remain uninfected. They must have an opportunity to learn in school about both the emotional and the practical implications of relationships and behaviour. The special needs of the young must also be considered in the context of health care, and it was necessary to develop appropriate counselling services on sex, sexually transmitted diseases and the use of contraceptives. Innovative projects must be developed to reach the increasing numbers of adolescent prostitutes, both boys and girls.

25. Young people must also be encouraged to take an active role in preventing the spread of AIDS. A change of attitudes was necessary, and influential sectors such as the media, music and sports should be encouraged to promote a positive but risk-free way of life. Nor must religious or moral attitudes in society be permitted to block the provision of accurate information that could dispel misunderstanding, fear and prejudice.

26. In order to motivate people to act responsibly, change their behaviour and cope with the heavy burden of illness, it was essential that all countries should take seriously the issues of human rights and dignity. Responsible behaviour among young people could not be encouraged through fear alone. Knowledge, understanding, love and compassion, rather than stigma and blame, fostered rational behaviour. The readiness of the international community to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the World Health Assembly concerning the need to respect the human rights and dignity of those affected by HIV and AIDS, their families and those with whom they lived, would be reflected in the subsequent evolution of the AIDS pandemic.

27. Mr. BOECK (Austria) said that the AIDS pandemic presented a health and social problem of staggering proportions, posing an enormous challenge to public health services in developed and developing countries alike. Austria welcomed the activities of WHO and its directing and co-ordinating role in the global effort against AIDS, as it sought to further the three objectives of the global AIDS strategy, namely to prevent HIV transmission, to reduce the personal and social impact of HIV/AIDS and to unify national and international efforts against HIV/AIDS. In 1989, Austria had given 400,000 schillings in support of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS.

(Mr. Boeck, Austria)

28. Austria fully endorsed such priorities as strengthening the management of the Global Programme on AIDS, supporting national AIDS control programmes, accelerating research, and combating discrimination and complacency.

29. A national commission of experts had been established in Austria after the first AIDS cases had been reported, a law focusing on preventive measures had entered into force in 1986, and Austria's strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS was in conformity with WHO guidelines. Publicity campaigns were under way to give information about the disease and its transmission, and Austria also sought to prevent AIDS-related discrimination.

30. At a workshop held at Vienna in October 1990, the charter of a European council of AIDS service organizations had been adopted, with the Austrian AIDS Foundation (Oesterreichische AIDS-Hilfe) being selected as secretariat of the council. The Austrian AIDS Foundation also represented Europe in attempts to set up an international council of AIDS service organizations.

31. Austria attached great importance to United Nations resolutions on the prevention and control of AIDS and looked forward to the adoption of another consensus resolution pointing to the need for further co-ordinated responses by the United Nations system, focusing in particular on the plight of women and children and on prevention of discrimination against people affected with the disease.

32. Mr. TURIANSKIY (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the discussion at the second regular session for 1990 of the Economic and Social Council on the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation, had been highly useful in helping predict the further development of the whole system of world economic relations. The participation of the executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system and the frank and open dialogue had helped clarify the positions of groups of countries and of individual States and had contributed to a better understanding of their specific interests. The main outcome of the discussion had been the general realization that, as a result of the restructuring of East-West relations, the world economy and international relations would undergo major changes.

33. His delegation was particularly pleased that the Council had adopted a resolution on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The Council's positive response to appeals from the countries which had been affected by that major technological accident had demonstrated that the Council was capable of addressing the specific problems of individual States. The adoption of the resolution would enhance the Council's prestige and increase the confidence which Member States placed in it.

34. The debate at the Council's second regular session had shown that the results of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly had enhanced the role of

(Mr. Turianskiy, Ukrainian SSR)

United Nations economic activities by bringing them closer to the real processes taking place in the world economy and creating conditions for the more efficient use of multilateral mechanisms.

35. The Council had also considered the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and had adopted a resolution on the subject. For the first time in many years, no delegation had voted against the resolution, which was clear evidence of the international community's unanimous understanding of the importance of implementing the Declaration. As one of the sponsors of the draft resolution, his delegation wished to thank all those who had supported it.

36. The revitalization of the Council remained a pressing issue. Although the adoption of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 had brought some improvements, the revitalization of the Council would depend largely on its ability to carry out its co-ordinating functions successfully and to monitor the implementation of its resolutions and decisions.

37. The changes currently taking place in the world political situation and the tempering of countries' differences with regard to economic concepts of development provided the Council with a real opportunity to reassess its leading role in the economic and social fields.

38. Mr. HALLAK (Syrian Arab Republic) said that Israeli practices in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan were aimed at Judaizing the occupied Arab territories and changing their demographic structure, wrecking their economy, seizing their water resources and crushing the national identity of their inhabitants. In December 1981, Israel had imposed its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the Golan, prompting the Security Council to adopt resolution 497 (1981) declaring Israel's decision null and void and demanding that Israel rescind it. Since then, Israel had made inhabitants of the Golan carry Israeli identity cards and had established 43 settlements there. It had also issued military orders modifying land ownership laws in the occupied Arab territories, in a flimsy attempt to justify confiscations. It had persisted in forcing the inhabitants of the Golan to emigrate by squeezing them economically, diverting their water resources to Israeli settlements and preventing the drilling of new wells and the irrigation of apple orchards. The Israeli occupation authorities had closed the markets to agricultural produce, especially apples, from the Golan, and had burnt forests and orchards, thereby provoking an economic disaster that direly affected health and social conditions, caused unemployment and made the Syrian Arab inhabitants a source of cheap labour for the Israeli work force.

39. Israel had also prevented Syrians forcibly deported in 1967 from returning to their homes, despite Security Council resolution 237 (1967) calling upon Israel to facilitate their return. Conditions similar to those of the Syrian Arabs in the Golan were endured by the Palestinian people in all the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon. He reaffirmed the right of the Arab people in the occupied

(Mr. Hallak, Syrian Arab Republic)

territories to permanent sovereignty over its natural resources and full compensation for all exploitation, depletion, loss and damage to those resources. He urged the international community to help the Arab people in the occupied territories recover its legitimate rights and not to recognize any changes the Israeli authorities might bring about in the demographic make-up of those territories.

40. Mr. SINGH (Fiji) said that the wide range of issues before the Economic and Social Council, from the AIDS epidemic to external debt, from safe drinking water to the Gulf crisis, showed that there was no lack of pressing issues to be addressed. The environment was under serious threat, and while the recent action on reducing the use of ozone-depleting substances and the banning of driftnet fishing were important steps, they still fell far short of what was needed. Many environmental problems were due to excessive waste and uncontrolled practices by the industrialized countries, but the developing countries were being asked to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of remedies.

41. The Uruguay Round was about to end, against a backcloth of little or no progress in some important areas and further deterioration in the situation of many developing countries. It was disappointing that more progress had not been made at the seventh session of UNCTAD.

42. In the early 1990s, a fully-integrated European Community would emerge, the United States and Canada would be an enormous free-trade area, and Japan would become even more dominant. Those developments would significantly alter the international socio-economic environment for the rest of the world. Unless appropriate remedies were taken, the well-off would become even more affluent while the poor would become even poorer. The future prosperity and well-being of most developing countries required new commitments and a new willingness by the industrialized countries to open up their markets.

43. The island developing countries were widely recognized as being among the most vulnerable of all developing countries. Fiji therefore welcomed the recent international focus on island developing countries, in particular the lead role taken by UNCTAD in that regard.

44. With major and extensive changes taking place which would drastically alter international relations, the time was ripe for a more equitable sharing among regions of the world, so that past inequities could be eliminated.

45. Mr. PERUGINI (Italy), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that AIDS was an issue of major importance to the Twelve because of the very complex range of humanitarian, economic, educational and other factors involved. Eight hundred thousand adult cases and 400,000 paediatric cases of AIDS might have occurred so far, while at least 8 to 10 million adults were infected with HIV world wide. By the year 2000, there might be a cumulative total of almost 30 million HIV-infected persons and AIDS cases. With women and children being increasingly exposed to the risk of infection, greater attention should be

(Mr. Perugini, Italy)

given to their health needs. The virus threatened not only to wipe out all the progress made in child survival but also to leave a grim legacy of orphans of infected parents.

46. The task of overcoming AIDS was great indeed, but the determination to combat it must be equally great. The Twelve supported the role of WHO as the focal point for the international struggle against AIDS, based on the Global Strategy on AIDS. They particularly commended the efforts of UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and the World Bank, which were all members of the Management Committee of the Global Programme on AIDS. Those agencies should not only provide general guidelines but also make concrete suggestions for national AIDS programmes. The Twelve found most useful the information supplied periodically by WHO to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and wished also to be informed about the results of co-operation among agencies, including at the field level.

47. The Twelve considered it very important to encourage the involvement in national programmes of relevant non-governmental organizations, community organizations and the private sector. The European Community was steadily strengthening its action against AIDS, for which it had a budget of 14 million ECU. An epidemiology centre had been established in Paris, viroimmunology research was going on in the Netherlands, a British institute was involved in one of the projects searching for a vaccine, the Seventh International Conference on AIDS would be held at Florence, and the Twelve had set up a task force to assist developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific in fighting the disease. The Twelve hoped that the General Assembly would again adopt by consensus a resolution reaffirming the global commitment to the eradication of that terrible pandemic.

48. The Twelve welcomed the growing importance given to entrepreneurship by the Governments of many developing and centrally-planned-economy countries. Political pluralism and a market-oriented economy were fundamental to the growth of entrepreneurship, as were sound macro-economic policies and appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks. However, the Twelve also recognized that national efforts should be supported by external factors, such as co-operation between national and foreign enterprises, public support for direct investment and joint ventures, assistance by bilateral donors and multilateral organizations, and a supportive international environment. The Twelve supported the general approach taken in the draft resolution entitled "Entrepreneurship as a means of attracting non-debt-creating flows of capital" (A/C.2/45/L.2).

49. The International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade had stimulated greater co-operation among donor countries and multilateral organizations on the one hand, and recipient countries on the other, although rapid population growth and urbanization were undermining efforts to provide adequate drinking water and sanitation for all. While they welcomed the progress made in the preparations for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa 1991-2000, the Twelve fully supported the suggestion of the Secretary-General that each country should initially focus on

(Mr. Perugini, Italy)

a limited number of objectives. It was necessary to draw on past experience and be aware of the crucial importance of transport problems in Africa and the role that regional co-operation could play in co-ordinating programmes and projects.

50. The Twelve were convinced that the World Decade for Cultural Development could help integrate cultural and human factors in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. To avoid duplication of initiatives, the World Decade should be closely co-ordinated with other international activities that coincided with or complemented it, such as the follow-up to the World Conference on Education for All.

51. Miss COURSON (France) expressed satisfaction with the New Delhi Declaration marking the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, in particular its inclusion of the essential points of concern to France, and institutional arrangements for the follow-up to the Decade. Her delegation nevertheless regretted that the organizers of the New Delhi Consultation had ignored the role played by donors in advancing consideration of the conditions governing the success or failure of the Decade and the results of such consideration.

52. It was also regrettable that the Secretary-General's report (A/45/327) made no mention of certain issues which had been thoroughly discussed at Mar del Plata, namely, the growing shortage of water resources and the increasing pollution in urban areas, and their direct link with environmental questions. As to the strategy for the 1990s, the proposals made in paragraphs 84 to 102 did not take into account a number of constraints which had been identified at the Interlaken meeting in 1987, and which were the main obstacles to the development of the water and sanitation sector. Those constraints included the precarious financial situation of the relevant bodies in developing countries and inadequate co-ordination between aid agencies and national organizations.

53. France was aware that the challenges of the future could not be met in isolation. It was therefore fully prepared to co-operate in that area with multilateral and bilateral aid organizations.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
15th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 17 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 15th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.15
23 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-56354 2739S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/45/3, A/45/74, A/45/185-E/1990/48, A/45/256-E/1990/58, A/45/257-E/1990/61, A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1, A/45/278 and Corr.1, A/45/292-E/1990/82, A/45/303, A/45/327, A/45/329, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/338-E/1990/103, A/45/342-E/1990/102, A/45/381-E/1990/118, A/45/584, A/45/598; A/C.2/45/3; A/C.2/45/L.2 and L.3; E/1990/91, 94 and 96)

1. Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that the Economic and Social Council's second regular session of 1990 had taken place in a positive atmosphere owing to the relaxation in East-West relations and the integration of Eastern and Central Europe into the world economy. His delegation had been gratified by the new, constructive spirit displayed by delegations from developed and developing countries alike, which had led to a consensus on many important issues.

2. His delegation had welcomed in particular the initiative by the President of the Council to hold an informal exchange of views on the impact of recent development in East-West relations on the world economy and on the growth and development of developing countries in particular. The discussion had been thought-provoking, and he urged that similar discussions should be encouraged and should involve not only delegations but the heads of United Nations agencies and others as well.

3. The informal discussion of urgent issues was one of the most concrete steps the Council had taken to revitalize its work. He hoped that that modality, together with the initiation of multi-year programmes with major policy themes, would help the Council to respond in a more timely, flexible and effective manner to changing needs and challenges in the economic and social fields. However, while all revitalization measures should be vigorously implemented and kept under constant review, deliberations on the relative roles of the General Assembly and the Council required a cautious approach and careful consideration. Strengthening the Council's role should be considered in the context of streamlining and enhancing efficiency within the Second Committee. The Council needed not only an organizational restructuring but a strengthening of its function, which was mandated by the Charter.

4. Recent deliberations in the Council on the role of entrepreneurship in economic development had shed light on a crucial means of fostering the endogenous capabilities of developing countries. It was to be hoped that further discussion of that topic in the Second Committee would build on the work done by the Council so that a consensus resolution could be adopted during the current session.

5. With regard to the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session (E/1990/91), his delegation hoped that the code of conduct on transnational corporations would reflect the current view of many developing countries that transnational corporations constituted the engine for their development.

6. Mr. SILALAHI (Indonesia) expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and noted that the political and economic changes sweeping the world had paved the way for a new framework for international relations. Thus, the Council's second regular session of 1990 had taken place in an atmosphere of opportunity and challenge. The conclusion to be drawn from current developments was that the world economy continued to undergo globalization, and the General Assembly must respond effectively to that situation.

7. However, the pace and scope of change had been such that the consequences of recent events had yet to be fully analysed. Deep uncertainties continued to cloud the developing countries' prospects for development. The enormous rehabilitation efforts taking place in Eastern Europe could jeopardize, if not derail, new initiatives and commitments for international development co-operation, as major financial, trade and investment flows from the North might now be redirected away from the developing countries. He therefore welcomed the decision taken by the Council to convene a special high-level meeting at Geneva in July 1991 to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the world economy. However, the success of such a meeting was contingent upon adequate preparations and he trusted that the Secretary-General's report called for in paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1990/68 would also contribute towards that success.

8. The formation of powerful economic groupings among developed countries could become a major stimulus to the global economy, provided that it remained outward-looking and did not create additional barriers to development.

9. The changes taking place in the world economic situation gave a new impetus to the revitalization of the Council's work. Some progress had been made in the implementation of Council resolutions and decisions aimed at enhancing the Council's role, and his delegation welcomed the decision by the Committee for Development Planning to establish closer links with the Council. Despite its mandate and broad spectrum of functions, the Council still failed to have a major impact on world economic and social policies. Obviously, then, a revitalized Council would have a crucial role to play in promoting the process initiated by the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly and the new international development strategy. If the Council was to contribute successfully towards the new emerging global order, it should hold meetings at the ministerial level to address specific issues, thereby enhancing its authority and strengthing its effectiveness.

10. While his statement had been confined to only a few issues, it should not be construed as reflecting a lack of interest on the part of his delegation in the other topics included under the agenda item.

11. Mr. MENDEZ (Philippines), after endorsing the statement made by the representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77, said that while the changing nature of East-West relations and the internal changes in the Soviet Union were cause for optimism, the developing countries did not fully share that optimism, as the gap between North and South persisted. Furthermore, recent changes had taken place primarily in the political sphere; their socio-economic

(Mr. Mendez, Philippines)

impact had yet to be felt. His delegation therefore joined those who had expressed concern that increasing financial assistance to the countries of Eastern Europe should not come at the expense of the developing world.

12. Among the dangers currently facing the international community was the further marginalization of the developing countries in international decision-making. For that reason, his delegation hoped to see the Council revitalized: it ought to serve as a forum in which the international community, at the highest level, could reach agreement on measures to minimize conflict in the economic and social fields. The scheduled ministerial meeting of the Council to examine the effects of recent developments in East-West relations was a welcome initiative and in keeping with other efforts to revitalize the Council. The executive heads of the relevant United Nations bodies and organs should also be present during the Council's deliberations.

13. His delegation recognized the relevance of national entrepreneurship to economic development and consequently welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on national entrepreneurs in economic development (A/45/292-E/1990/82). He agreed that the national policy environment affected entrepreneurship in developing countries, but noted that the international economic environment also played a significant role. The conversion of domestic savings into investments could stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit, yet in many developing countries, poverty precluded the formation of savings, a situation which was linked as much to the external environment as to national policies.

14. His delegation welcomed the achievements of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade and supported the efforts made by the Council and its subsidiary organs in the area of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) prevention and control. He supported the proposal to undertake a comprehensive country approach to assessing the socio-economic impact of that disease, as such an assessment would enable policy makers to anticipate potential damage to their development efforts.

15. Mr. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina) said that, like many countries created by the conquest of uninhabited lands and having large immigrant populations, Argentina had been marked by a strong spirit of entrepreneurship from its earliest days, a fact which had led to the establishment of the Argentine business community, which had played an important role in the country's economic development. However, private-sector involvement had fluctuated, depending on internal and external factors at any given time. Internally, Argentina had experienced constitutional changes of government only twice in the past 60 years, which had naturally resulted in a discontinuity in economic policy. The effect of external factors had been most visible during the past 15 years, when the international financial market operations had grown increasingly transnational in nature. Such operations offered a higher return than did productive activities, which nevertheless constituted the basis for the creation of wealth. The effect of all those factors on the formation of national private sectors, particularly those relating to the international

(Mr. Sersale di Cerisano, Argentina)

environment, should have been discussed in greater detail in the documentation before the Committee.

16. His country was undertaking structural reform which was consistent with the thrust of document A/C.2/45/L.2, which the Economic and Social Council had submitted to the Committee for consideration. The reform was based on a broad programme of privatization which welcomed foreign capital, with investment guided by market forces and an open economy. A reform of the taxation system which stimulated free enterprise was also being implemented. Those efforts were being thwarted, as was the development of an entrepreneurial capacity in Eastern European countries, by countries which claimed to be guided by the concepts of market economy and economic openness, but which were actually protecting inefficient sectors of their own production structures. That prevented the developing countries from expanding their own production because they lacked access to the markets of the protectionist countries of their goods were driven out of third markets by subsidized exports from those countries.

17. His delegation endorsed the concept of entrepreneurship as a means of attracting non-debt-creating flows of capital. "Non-debt-creating" meant entrepreneurial activities that could generate sufficient revenues to cover the import of production inputs, an important factor for countries which needed foreign currency to meet their external debt-servicing obligations. It also meant activities that could attract external investment flows and that led to private sector development and a horizontal integration of production processes that would foster the development of small- and medium-size businesses in particular. In all cases, the profitability of investments in goods or services must exceed the profitability of the financial market if the Keynesian formula of "savings equals investment" was to go full circle through the economy. It was there that countries capable of influencing monetary and financial policies had an important role to play, and his delegation endorsed the proposal made in that regard in paragraph 22 of the Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly.

18. He drew attention to an important entrepreneurial training programme of the Centre on Transnational Corporations which sought to provide technical co-operation for the establishment and growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises. To date, the programme had trained private entrepreneurs and had led to a number of specific joint ventures between entrepreneurs within a single region. Accordingly, his delegation believed that the Committee should decide to support such activities of the Centre during the current session.

19. The restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system was a priority issue that should be given thorough consideration so that those branches of the system could play their assigned role. Specific action should be taken with regard to policy and operational activities, and a link should be forged between the two sectors. While much emphasis had been placed on the system's efficiency, equal emphasis should be given to its effectiveness, with a view to implementing Articles 55 to 60 of the Charter. The relationship that

(Mr. Sersale di Cerisano, Argentina)

should exist between the decision-making of policy bodies and that of bodies which executed operational activities should also be borne in mind.

20. Finally, his delegation had participated actively in the negotiations on a code of conduct on transnational corporations. More thorough consideration should be given to the draft code of conduct, set out in document E/1990/94, and to the list of outstanding issues in the negotiations thereon (E/1990/96). Final decisions should not be taken in haste on a matter of such importance to the developing countries, and the views of all countries should be solicited.

21. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) singled out provision of necessary water and sanitation services by the end of the century, the goals and concepts of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and General Assembly deliberation on the AIDS pandemic as important programmes deserving widespread support. His delegation supported the role of the World Health Organization as the central co-ordinating agency in the international effort to control AIDS. President Bush was intending to dispatch a delegation to Africa, to see whether the United States could contribute more to the fight against AIDS in that continent. His delegation would speak later on the question of international co-operation to address and ameliorate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, once the report of the Secretary-General became available.

22. The United States supported efficiency in the management of those programmes, and believed that, wherever possible, operations should be funded through existing resources of the United Nations system, or from extrabudgetary sources. His country attached importance to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and had been a prime mover behind efforts to reform the Council and to seek greater efficiency in the United Nations system on a unitary basis. Council resolution E/1990/69 had been more of a compromise than his delegation would have wished. Nevertheless, there had been a continued commitment to revitalization and reform, and a specific call to the Secretary-General for leadership. His delegation would continue to support progress towards streamlining the United Nations system in the economic sphere, eliminating duplication of activities and supporting decisions taken by the governing bodies of the technical and specialized agencies. It looked forward to the presentation of the Secretary-General's long-awaited study on the issue, and hoped that the report would include specific steps to be taken in such areas as structural and operational matters, organization of the Secretariat, consolidation of subsidiary bodies, and rationalization and reduction of documents and publications.

23. Turning to economic matters, he said that the United States agreed on the need for accelerated industrial development in Africa in the context of the continent's overall economic recovery. It endorsed the preparation of programmes set forth in previous resolutions on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. At its eighteenth special session, the General Assembly had passed a consensus resolution revealing an impressive convergence of views about free markets, private initiatives and political pluralism, which had been acknowledged and reaffirmed at the most recent session of the Council. The consensus implicit

(Mr. Marks, United States)

in the draft international development strategy confirmed that, for the next decade, all countries were ultimately responsible for their own development, and would continue to emphasize national economic restructuring and policy reform, free market policies, and necessary growth-oriented export policies. The new consensus had come at a time when economic issues were attaining an international prominence hitherto reserved for national security and political and military considerations. Countries now recognized that national security was increasingly becoming a function of economic well-being, which in turn would be dependent on a country's competitive position in a highly integrated world economy. The time was ripe for a formal discussion of the role of the private sector in development.

24. The draft resolution on entrepreneurship, authored by his delegation and co-sponsored by Poland and Canada, had led to lively and thought-provoking debate in the Council. In view of time constraints, the draft resolution had been forwarded to the General Assembly for continuing consultations and formal action. Its thesis was actually quite simple: in parallel with the movement towards political pluralism and freedom world wide, many countries were looking for the first time to the market economy and free enterprise - in other words, towards economic pluralism. That was a most welcome development.

25. The co-sponsors were sincerely convinced that a free enterprise sector with the entrepreneurial spirit as its motor was a necessary - though not the sole - condition for sustainable economic growth. The vibrant economic life of the private sector could not exist in a vacuum, but must be part of the wider political and social life of each country. His delegation hoped that the draft resolution would continue to stimulate discussion, both within and outside the United Nations system.

26. Mr. PASHKEVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the work of the Council in 1990 had been marked by a growing desire for mutual understanding and partnership and for consensus approaches to the removal of existing differences on many current issues of international economic co-operation. Council resolution 1990/52 on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments dealt with one of those important issues. His delegation supported the Council's request that the Secretary-General "designate the Task Force on Long-term Development Objectives of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination as the focal point for the mutual exchange among agencies of assessments of prospective developments in the economic and social fields". The resolution correctly underscored the need to utilize to the fullest extent possible the capacities of the United Nations University and other United Nations research institutes engaged in the study of emerging economic and social developments".

27. The adoption by consensus of Council resolution 1990/50 on international co-operation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was a first, practical step towards including the specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations system in the efforts to reduce the effects of the accident. The Byelorussian SSR hoped that the

(Mr. Pashkevich, Byelorussian SSR)

Secretary-General's comprehensive report on that issue would contain useful recommendations on practical measures for broadening long-term international co-operation to minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

28. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council had given due attention to the work of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations. The Byelorussian SSR had begun to integrate its economy into the world economy and was interested in mutually advantageous co-operation with transnational corporations. Unfortunately, the Commission on Transnational Corporations at its reconvened special session had not been able to complete its work on the draft code of conduct on transnational corporations.

29. His delegation attached great importance to Council resolution 1990/68 on the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991 to discuss the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy and believed that the discussion would result in a major consensus political document expressing the international community's political support for the changes taking place in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A business-like discussion of East-West relations in the new political and economic climate would enhance the Council's prestige and demonstrate the usefulness of meeting at the ministerial level to consider important economic and social issues.

30. The resolutions which the Council had adopted on a wide range of other social and economic issues were in keeping with the practical implementation of the Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session.

31. While the Byelorussian SSR commended the work of the Council in 1990, it shared the general opinion that further measures must be taken to revitalize that important body. His delegation supported the Council's decision to invite the President of the Council to undertake informal consultations on all relevant issues pertaining to the review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council.

32. Mr. ALVAREZ SOBERANIS (Mexico) said that his delegation had played a leading role in drafting the code of conduct on transnational corporations, and was committed to the task of producing a series of rules reflecting the principles and guidelines that had been agreed on. In the years since the task of drafting the code had begun, the climate of international confrontation had given way to a new era of co-operation. Those new circumstances made a code of conduct on transnational corporations more necessary than ever. Direct foreign investment played an increasingly prominent role; but there were as yet no precise international rules corresponding to the rules established by GATT, IMF and the World Bank on trade and financial matters. A code of conduct would fill a significant gap in that area, by creating stability and fostering confidence among investors. The code would also be directed at Governments and private investors, respecting a balance between the rights and obligations of the three key actors in national economies. The code, which was not intended to replace individual countries' domestic legislation, would supplement, rather than replace, other international agreements. Implementation of its provisions, which would take the form of guidelines, would be voluntary.

(Mr. Alvarez Soberanis, Mexico)

33. At the end of its summer session, the Council had requested the General Assembly to take a decision on the future of the draft code. Such a decision was long overdue. Any further delay would be an act of injustice to those who had worked for so long to come up with a text that, while not perfect, harmed no party's interests and contributed to protecting the interests of all concerned. His delegation would thus be formally proposing, through a draft resolution, that the Assembly should now approve the latest version of the code, and should commend it to the attention of all States. He hoped that the draft resolution would be supported by all those convinced of the need for a code of conduct on transnational corporations.

34. Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that recent figures on the AIDS pandemic released by the WHO revealed an extremely serious situation, particularly with regard to the numbers of children affected and the situation could be expected to deteriorate further in the 1990s. Enhanced efforts were called for at national and international levels, to combat further spread of the disease.

35. Under the Ceausescu régime, no cases of AIDS had been reported to WHO by Romania, although many children had already been infected. Official indifference to the problem had gone hand in hand with a policy of encouraging a high birth rate, at the expense of children's health and welfare.

36. Since the revolution of December 1989, policy had changed. The new authorities were reporting AIDS cases to WHO. In co-operation with other Governments and international agencies and organizations, many measures had been implemented, and much was being done to develop surveillance centres, HIV blood-testing capacities, and educational activities, despite the many difficulties facing the country. His delegation was grateful for the help it was receiving in dealing with AIDS cases among the unwanted children of Romania.

37. Turning to the report of the Secretary-General on national entrepreneurs in economic development (A/45/292), he said that the new Romanian authorities realized that only political pluralism, full respect for human rights and a market economy could together provide the opportunities Romania's citizens needed in order to develop their full human and creative potential. The new Government was convinced of the importance of private enterprise to Romania's growth and development, and was aware that higher domestic savings and inflows of foreign capital depended on free enterprise, a key component of which was entrepreneurship. To that end, it had enacted legislation establishing the legal and regulatory frameworks needed to promote national entrepreneurship, set up private enterprises, private State enterprises and attract foreign investment. Agencies had been established to promote private enterprises, and measures had been taken to create institutions that had not existed under the previous régime, such as commercial banks, stock exchanges and insurance companies. Economic, financial, credit and fiscal measures had been taken or were planned, aimed at providing incentives to entrepreneurship. More than 30,000 private enterprises had now been set up.

(Mr. Barac, Romania)

38. In the light of the importance of national entrepreneurship in promoting economic development and creating employment and technology advancement, his delegation was ready to support the adoption of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/45/L.2, or any similar draft on the topic.

39. Mr. Chin-min LEE (World Health Organization) said that, despite the efforts and political commitment of countries participating in the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, which was due to end on 31 December 1990, the rapid population expansion of recent years meant that the number of people without access to safe water supply and sanitation remained unchanged. Unless those people were reached, there could be no prospect of attaining the goal of Heath for All by the Year 2000.

40. In the light of the recognition contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/327) that the recommendations of the Mar del Plata Action Plan continued to be valid, and of the strategy for the 1990s set forth in section III.B of the report, there was clear evidence of widespread concern that Decade-related efforts should continue. The Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 October 1990, had adopted the slogan "Some for All Rather than More for Some" as the rallying cry for the 1990s. It had also identified four guiding principles for countries taking up the challenge of the 1990s: (a) protection of the environment and safeguarding of health through the integrated management of water resources and liquid and solid wastes; (b) institutional reforms promoting an integrated approach and including changes in procedure, attitudes and behaviour, and the full participation of women at all levels in sector institutions; (c) community management of services, backed by measures to strengthen local institutions in implementing and sustaining water and sanitation programmes; and (d) sound financial practices, achieved through better management of existing assets, and widespread use of appropriate technologies.

41. Within the United Nations system, support for a continuation of Decade activities remained high. The Inter-agency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, reviewing the accomplishments of the Decade and addressing the prospects for the future, had recently identified the need for continued efforts to strengthen co-operation within the agencies of the United Nations system, and had overwhelmingly endorsed the proposals concerning the strategy for the 1990s.

42. Awareness of the value of external co-operation had widened during the course of the Decade, with the establishment of the Framework for Global Co-operation and its Collaborative Council, which brought together bilateral and multilateral support communities and representatives of developing countries in a forum intended to promote effective water and sanitation development at the country level.

43. In response to the water and sanitation needs identified for the 1990s, WHO had developed a proposed water and sanitation strategy, to be integrated into a Global Strategy for the Environment. Its three main thrusts would be expansion of sustainable community water supply facilities, promotion of health-related

(Mr. Chin-min Lee, WHO)

linkages, and development of improved environmental technologies. WHO also planned to continue its role as secretariat of both the Inter-agency Steering Committee and the Collaborative Council. The strategy elements defined in the report of the Secretary-General corresponded with those identified by the New Delhi Global Consultation, the Steering Committee, the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources, the agencies of the United Nations system, and the individual bilateral support agencies. A broad basis thus now existed for strengthening support to national programmes through the collaborative mechanisms developed during the Decade. Only through such an integrated approach could water and sanitation play their proper role in the achievement of Health for All by the Year 2000.

44. Ms. REID (United Nations Development Programme) said that the development implications of the HIV epidemic were anticipated to be without precedent, especially in countries where a high proportion of the adult population was infected. Households affected by HIV-related illness or death had already begun to feel the consequences: loss of income, leading to a lowered standard of living, loss of home, loss of access to health and education services, poverty. The plight of survivors was also becoming visible. Only after a significant percentage of the population had fallen ill and died would many come to understand the potential toll of the epidemic on a nation's workforce, the economic viability of enterprises, the productive sectors of the economy and the socio-economic well-being of families and communities, particularly of women and girls. Human survival and human development were being threatened by the epidemic. The responsibility of the development assistance community was to assist Governments to respond to the epidemic in a timely and effective fashion. A significant increase in assistance committed to minimizing the spread of HIV infection and its social, personal and economic implications was required.

45. The WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS sought to ensure a co-ordinated and complementary response by combining the strength of WHO as international leader in health policy, programming and research and that of UNDP as a leader in social and economic development. The development imperatives included reduction of the transmission of the virus, lessening of the personal and social ramifications of HIV infection, and assistance to Governments in forecasting and planning for the future social and economic impact. WHO brought to national Governments great expertise in health and research sectors, complemented by UNDP expertise in addressing issues arising from the developmental impact of HIV morbidity and mortality, the development of multisectoral prevention programmes, and action-oriented social and economic research.

46. UNDP areas of responsibility within the Alliance included assistance to Governments in co-ordination of donor activities, mobilization of external resources, the development of a multi-sectoral response to the epidemic, in the design and delivery of programmes to minimize further transmission, to provide care, support and treatment for HIV-affected individuals, families and communities and to minimize social and economic consequences, and assistance to Governments in HIV-related national capacity building, institutional strengthening and human resource development.

(Ms. Reid, UNDP)

47. In the initial phase, the WHO Global HIV/AIDS Strategy constituted a working framework for Governments, donors and non-governmental organizations. UNDP had provided direct support to the Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) and had also established a $2 million bridging facility which allowed WHO/GPA to disburse reimbursable funds to bridge delays between pledges of donor support and receipt of funds. Funding had been provided to support regional initiatives for the formulation of national short- and medium-term plans, education and training activities and to strengthen national planning capacity regarding the epidemic. At the country level, many UNDP offices had worked closely with WHO in assisting Governments to co-ordinate donor activities and in resource mobilization. The United Nations Capital Development Fund had a pilot project to minimize iatrogenic and occupational transmission and was exploring assistance to Governments in addressing the needs of survivors.

48. The next step was to increase awareness of the development implications of the epidemic and to strengthen the ability of Governments to respond. UNDP was currently developing such a programme strategy, as well as drawing up HIV-related personnel policies and procedures for its staff. UNDP was maintaining close co-ordination with WHO to ensure that their roles in the next phase were both clearly defined and complementary.

49. Increased understanding of the long-term implications of the epidemic for development assistance was needed. To that end, UNDP had asked a range of individuals, particularly from countries with more seriously affected populations, to reflect upon the possible future impact on their communities and societies. There was also a need to determine more clearly how UNDP expertise could best assist national Governments and to strengthen its capacity to respond. Preparation of a handbook to assist field staff in understanding the development implications of the epidemic was planned. The Governments of the Netherlands and Norway had already committed financial support to the interregional capacity-strengthening initiative for operational support at country level on the social and economic impact of the epidemic, and further contributions were being sought.

50. The mandate to promote and support the role of community-based organizations arose from two factors. First, especially with respect to sexual and drug-use transmission, responsibility for prevention lay with the individual. Second, the major part of care and support, even treatment and prevention, would need to be family, home or community-based, since the extent of morbidity and mortality of the epidemic could not be met by institutionally-based services. UNDP was already providing support to a number of community-based initiatives, and the United Nations Volunteers had initiated a programme to strengthen community-based activities.

51. The particular ways in which the epidemic affected women deserved attention, yet the best approach remained unclear. Though women had been involved in the establishment of many community-based programmes, few such programmes addressed their specific needs.

(Ms. Reid, UNDP)

52. UNDP recognized the critical importance of staff education and counselling programmes and of a clear and comprehensive personnel policy. It was working closely with the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS in the development of appropriate policies and procedures.

53. No event or phenomenon in living memory quite paralleled the AIDS epidemic. Without some knowledge of its probable impact, programmes would remain primarily directed at those known to be affected. As HIV-related morbidity and mortality continued to increase, a balance must be struck between prevention, care and support of the ill and mitigation of the consequences of AIDS deaths, directly on surviving family members and indirectly on the economy. Forward planning to minimize potential economic, psychological and social disruptions must be initiated immediately.

54. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil), commenting on some of the issues addressed in the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/45/3), said that the draft resolution on the promotion of entrepreneurship reproduced in Council decision 1990/265 was an attempt to underline the crucial role that could be played by entrepreneurship in economic growth and development. The text could, however, be improved by adding a reference to "national" or "indigenous" entrepreneurs. The current discussion was not about foreign direct investment, important though that was, but about the need for creating conditions, in each separate country, to liberate and give full economic expression to the creativity and resourcefulness of individuals. Moreover, it would be preferable not to include extraneous matters, such as the promotion of non-debt-creating flows of capital, which served only to blur the issue. Another important element was the establishment and execution of economic and technical co-operation programmes. His delegation concurred with the conclusion contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/292) that the international policy environment had a significant impact on the development of indigenous entrepreneurship. It would be useful if the Secretariat could elaborate further on the links between entrepreneurship and the international economic environment.

55. The Brazilian Government had offered its full support to WHO in the prevention and control of AIDS, and his delegation looked forward to further discussion of how best to contribute to those efforts. Brazil had co-sponsored Council resolution 1990/50 regarding the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. That accident had taught a painful lesson not only to the countries most directly affected, but to the international community as a whole.

56. He noted that the negotiating process on the code of conduct for transnational corporations had not yet been concluded. At the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, not only had agreement remained elusive on some outstanding points, but new issues had been raised. He suggested that negotiators be provided with an exhaustive list of the outstanding issues and the different alternatives proposed so as to ensure greater transparency in negotiations.

57. Mr. MALONE (Canada) said that the resolution on entrepreneurship had resulted in fruitful discussion on one of the key elements of growth and development. The private sector was increasingly acknowledged as a dynamic force for improving productivity and for generating new employment opportunities, particularly for the poor. That could be achieved through micro- and small-scale private enterprise development in the agricultural, manufacturing, service and other economic sectors. Governments could facilitate the process by creating conditions of confidence for small entrepreneurs and by providing institutional support to micro- and small-scale farmers and business persons, in the form of management and technical advice, credit facilities and legal protection, including protection of property. Governments must recognize the principles of accountability and transparency, and ensure that the poor and other vulnerable social groups were fully involved in decision-making.

58. Canada supported the Global Programme on AIDS (GPA) of WHO, and welcomed the co-operation in that area between UNDP and WHO. Canada would like the General Assembly to address the adverse impact of AIDS on the health and socio-economic well-being of women, children and families. It also strongly supported the concluding statement of the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s.

59. Some improvements had been made to the functioning of the Economic and Social Council but on balance, the Council remained a lackluster organ of a procedural nature. His delegation would support efforts to shorten significantly the length of the summer meetings. The problem was as much attitudinal as structural. Greater self-discipline in the form of shorter and more focused debate and less unnecessary documentation was called for.

60. Mr. ALAMRI (United Arab Emirates), addressing the issue of sovereignty over natural resources in Palestinian and Arab territories, said that great suffering had resulted from the Israeli occupation. The people of those territories were the victims of arbitrary measures and were deprived of their economic and social rights. They had been barred from the fruits of the economic and scienific progress of the past 40 years, and could not embark on true development without sovereignty over their resources. A concerted effort was required on the part of the international community to assist the Palestinian Arab people to relieve their suffering and resist arbitrary and repressive Israeli measures.

61. The international community was duty bound to end the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights, which had been annexed in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.

62. Mr. HOLTHE (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that considerable changes had taken place in the world since the Commission on Transnational Corporations had begun its work on a draft code of conduct on transnational corporations. The flows of foreign direct investment to developing countries had concentrated on a handful of countries with relatively successful and dynamic economies, while flows to the heavily indebted and poorer countries had diminished. Moreover, with the advent of joint ventures and "non-equity" forms of

(Mr. Holthe, Norway)

investment, the wholly owned subsidiary was no longer the most common manifestation of a transnational corporation. In general, the relationship between transnational corporations and their host Governments seemed to be more pragmatic and harmonious than they had been in the past.

63. The general perception of transnational corporations had undergone a radical change. Countries which had formerly been very skeptical of transnational corporations currently saw them as a promising means to help modernize, restructure and internationalize their economies. The discussions on transnational corporations within the United Nations, which had once been a battleground between both East and West and North and South, had become much more pragmatic and business-like. The main emphasis was now on the positive contributions which transnational corporations and foreign direct investment could bring to economic and social development.

64. Those changes did not obviate the need for a code of conduct on transnational corporations. A universal code would establish minimum standards for good behaviour which would be generally applicable, even in countries where the capacity for establishing adequate national frameworks was limited. Regrettably, little progress had been made on the draft code of conduct since the last special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in 1985. The lack of progress could not be attributed to the Chairman of the special session, who had taken several commendable initiatives, the last of which had been a proposal forwarded to the Council at its second regular session of 1990 for a complete text of the draft code, containing previously concluded provisions as well as compromise proposals on outstanding issues. While the Nordic countries found those proposals reasonable, they believed that any solutions to the outstanding issues would not be very far from the last composite text from the Chairman.

65. The text of the draft code in its entirety did not fully convey the overall positive view that had now emerged regarding the very useful contributions which transnational corporations could make to economic and technological development. That could be counterbalanced to some extent by prefacing the final decision adopting the code with some introductory observations specifying the potential benefits which could be derived from foreign investment.

66. Some of the individual paragraphs of the draft code did not take full account of the new and refined concerns and concepts which had been developed over the past few years. For example, the chapter on environmental protection did not fully reflect the actual stage of thinking and international co-operation. However, the Nordic countries were not proposing that all previously agreed provisions should be reviewed and renegotiated, since the text of the draft code contained a review procedure which could be used to bring the code up to date even after its adoption.

67. The Nordic countries doubted that the draft code could be adopted at the current session. While the point had been made that it might be preferable to await the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations before resuming consideration of the draft code, the Nordic countries believed that an

(Mr. Holthe, Norway)

agreement on the code would not adversely affect the negotiations; and, in fact, might even be beneficial to them by helping to resolve investment-related issues. If the Assembly was not able to take a final decision on the draft code at its current session, arrangements should be made to resume consideration of the draft code early in 1991.

68. Mr. KRAVETZ (El Salvador) said that private initiative played a fundamental role in growth and development and that Governments should provide the incentives needed to promote entrepreneurship and free competition. In order to carry out that task and given the current positive trend towards the reduction of the public sector in many countries Governments had the obligation to create a competent and efficient public sector. The public sector was not inherently incompetent; it simply required the necessary resources to enable it to carry out its responsibilities.

69. In chapter III of his report on national entrepreneurs in economic development (A/45/292-E/1990/82), the Secretary-General referred to the importance of programmes for promoting entrepreneurship. In El Salvador, the Fundación Empresarial para el Desarrollo Educativo (FEPADE), a private, non-political and non-profit organization, was carrying out a number of training activities in order to promote the educational, professional and technical development of the Salvadorian people. Since the beginning of its activities in 1987 until June 1990, FEPADE had trained 8,610 workers and technicians in 79 specialities. Another private, non-political and non-profit organization, the Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES), encouraged entrepreneurship through a programme which promoted small-scale and micro-enterprises. The programme consisted of three kinds of services: administrative training, financial assistance and consulting services.

70. In chapter IV of his report, the Secretary-General noted that the introduction of structural adjustment programmes in various developing countries had displaced a large number of civil servants and public employees, and that government civil service and public enterprises should be regarded as a major source of potential entrepreneurs, and that the same could apply to military personnel. El Salvador's structrual adjustment programme made it necessary to develop programmes to instil an entrepreneurial spirit into displaced government employees in order to enable them to become successful small-scale businessmen. When the armed confrontation in El Salvador ended, it would be necessary to expand entrepreneurial training programmes in order to facilitate the return of military personnel to civilian life.

71. In the same chapter, the Secretary-General noted that entrepreneurship or business development was often seen as a political solution which could help in dealing with problems of refugees. El Salvador was preparing development projects which would facilitate medium- and long-term solutions to the problems of displaced persons and returnees. El Salvador was currently carrying out projects which gave such persons easier access to credit, and which sought to improve the available economic and social infrastructure.

(Mr. Kravetz, El Salvador)

72. In chapter V, the Secretary-General stated that entrepreneurship could not be expected to flourish within an environment where government policies and legal and cultural factors inhibited the development of successful enterprises. Faced with an expanding informal sector, the Government of El Salvador was seeking ways to reform its institutional system in order to provide more and better opportunities for economic growth through both formal and informal private enterprise. To that end, its Ministry of Planning was seeking to develop a technical co-operation programme with the Peruvian Instituto Libertad y Democracia.

73. In chapter VII of his report, the Secretary-General noted that subcontracting was one of the ways in which multinational corporations were co-operating with national enterprises, and that that type of relationship could promote exports and was in many cases a form of technical assistance. In El Salvador, the results of that relationship had been extremely positive. In the San Bartolo Free Zone, an industrial park for enterprises which exported 100 per cent of their production outside of Central America, 12 manufacturing enterprises had been established, of which six were national or co-investment enterprises. Moreover, several of the foreign enterprises in El Salvador were managed entirely by Salvadorian professionals. The San Bartolo Free Zone provided more than 3,600 jobs and its average level of exports amounted to some $6.7 million a month.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
16th meeting
held on
Thursday, 18 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

90-56390 2829S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.16
1 November 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/45/3, A/45/74, A/45/185-E/1990/48, A/45/256-E/1990/58, A/45/257-E/1990/61, A/45/277-E/1990/77 and Add.1, A/45/278 and Corr.1, A/45/292-E/1990/82, A/45/303, A/45/327, A/45/329, A/45/336-S/21385, A/45/338-E/1990/103, A/45/342-E/1990/102, A/45/381-E/1990/118, A/45/584, A/45/598; E/1990/91, E/1990/94, E/1990/96; A/C.2/45/3; A/C.2/45/L.2* and L.3)

1. Mr. DORJGOTON (Mongolia) said that the historic changes occurring in Eastern Europe and in Mongolia and the growing interdependence of countries were giving the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council an increasingly large practical role to play in solving the most urgent global problems, as was clear from the outcome of the Council's second regular session of 1990. Among the most important resolutions and decisions adopted were resolution 1990/54 on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and resolution 1990/52 on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments and decision 1990/263 on strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs. The resolutions on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council and on the holding of a special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991 (1990/69 and 1990/68 respectively) should also give new impetus to the Council's efforts to resolve the world's major economic, social and humanitarian problems.

2. His delegation wished to commend the Council for the increasing attention it was devoting to human resource development and the promotion of entrepreneurship in national economic development; the Secretary-General's report on National entrepreneurs in economic development (A/45/292) contained very useful information on that subject. He pointed out that Mongolia's new economic and social policy objectives were oriented in that same direction.

3. It was encouraging to note that, at its most recent session, the Council had held extensive discussions on the environmental problems which threatened the survival of mankind. His Government attached great importance to broadening international co-operation in that field and particularly looked forward to participating in the multilateral and regional activities to be organized within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

4. Serious natural disasters occurred frequently in Mongolia. Its agriculture was affected each year by drought and fires, which destroyed tens of thousands of hectares of forests and hundreds of thousands of hectares of pasture land. For that reason, his Government intended to step up technical co-operation activities and information exchanges with all members of the international community, including its two neighbours, and with United Nations organizations, in particular the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. In addition, Mongolia, which was a land-locked developing country, was severely affected by its lack of access to the sea and to world markets and by the absence of adequate

(Mr. Dorjgoton, Mongolia)

transport and communication infrastructures, which was slowing down his country's integration into the system of trade relationships linking the other Asian and Pacific States. In that connection, he wished to draw the Committee's attention to the need to create within the United Nations system a special mechanism to deal with the economic problems of land-locked developing countries. That need had been underlined by the Prime Minister of Mongolia at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly on international economic co-operation.

5. Mr. VENERA (Czechoslovakia) said that the principle of openness was starting to have an impact on international economic relations, owing to the weakening of the non-economic barriers which had hindered international co-operation in that field. Drawing on the accumulation of freely available scientific and technical experience, the United Nations had the potential to create conditions for the solution of the economic problems of the developing countries, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and of mankind as a whole.

6. A consensus had been reached within the United Nations on two essential principles: that each country was responsible for its own economic development and that the entire international community was responsible for the macro-economic framework needed for sound economic co-operation. Such a consensus was reflected in Council resolution 1990/68 on the convening of a special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1991, to discuss the patterns of trade, financial flows, and investments in the context of the recent evolution in East-West relations and its consequences for the developing countries.

7. At its second regular session of 1990, the Council had adopted a number of highly significant decisions, including decision 1990/263 on strengthening multilateral co-operation in international economic affairs and resolution 1990/52 on the role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments. Indeed, it would be of great use to many countries, including Czechoslovakia, to have available forecasts relating to the various economic process involved.

8. Regional economic co-operation represented an extremely important aspect of multilateral economic co-operation; the United Nations regional commissions, including the Economic Commission for Europe, played an important role in that sphere. Nevertheless, the work of the latter needed to be restructured so that it could be more effective within the European framework. Subregional institutions also had a role to play. The Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, which was actively striving to integrate itself into Europe, was stepping up its co-operation with, inter alia, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

9. The Declaration of the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly expressed the international community's will to revitalize economic growth, particularly in the developing countries. Equally important in that regard was Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/56 on trends in the transfer of resources to and from developing countries and their impact on the economic growth

(Mr. Venera, Czechoslovakia)

and sustained development of those countries. The promotion of entrepreneurship and free market relationships also represented a sound approach to economic development. Only under those conditions could the effectiveness and adaptability of national economies be increased.

10. The work of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations was very useful. Czechoslovakia was interested in more extensive consultations with the Centre, with a view particularly to gathering information on the legislation applicable to transnational corporations in various countries and on fiscal issues.

11. The Council's second regular session of 1990 and the debate within the Second Committee had emphasized the decisive importance of a market economy linked with democracy, political pluralism and the protection of human rights for the maintenance and promotion of sound economic growth.

12. Mr. TAYEB (Saudi Arabia) said that in its resolution 1803 (XXVII) of 14 December 1962, the General Assembly had recommended that the sovereign right of every people to dispose of its wealth and its natural resources should be respected and had stated that violation of that right was contrary to the spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and hindered the development of international co-operation and the maintenance of peace. That was the foundation for resolution 32/161, in which the General Assembly emphasized the right of the Arab States and peoples whose territories were under Israeli occupation to full sovereignty over all their natural resources and economic activities and reaffirmed that all measures undertaken by Israel to exploit those resources and economic activities were illegal.

13. Since 1967, the occupied territories had been subjected to a policy of terror and colonization, which the Israeli occupation authorities had intensified after the beginning of the intifadah in order to crush the efforts of the Palestinians to ensure their development through self-reliance.

14. The measures taken by the Israeli authorities to that end were described in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people (TD/B/1266).

15. As a result of Israeli practices, the economic situation in the occupied territories had deteriorated substantially in recent years. Investment in 1988 has dropped more than 20 per cent in the West Bank, and by 13 per cent in the Gaza Strip. Between 1988 and 1989, gross domestic product had decreased by 35 per cent. Household income had fallen by 50 per cent since the beginning of the intifadah because of depressed wage levels, while prices had risen by 20 per cent in 1989. It was therefore critical that the international community help the Palestinian people to confront Israeli manoeuvres to impede their development efforts. It should nevertheless be recalled that UNRWA, UNDP, FAO, WHO and UNESCO were very active in the occupied Palestinian territories and systematically responded to the needs of the Palestinian people for assistance, notwithstanding

(Mr. Tayeb, Saudi Arabia)

the obstacles placed in their path by the Israeli authorities since their efforts ran counter to Israeli economic interests.

16. The major problem with respect to the economic development of the occupied territories was the question of permanent sovereignty by Palestinians over their natural resources. Beginning in 1967, Israel had seized control of water resources - whether for agricultural or household use - with the result that the Palestinian people controlled only 17 per cent of those resources while Israeli settlements controlled 20 per cent. That discriminatory policy seriously impeded Palestinian agricultural development.

17. Before 1987, the Israeli authorities had confiscated 50 per cent of Palestinian lands. By the end of 1979, they had established 128 settlements, and another 117 had been established between 1987 and 1990. Between 1988 and 1989, the Israeli authorities had expropriated 99,000 dunums of agricultural land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, equivalent to 1.7 per cent of the total area of the occupied territories, and had destroyed 1,576 Palestinian houses and sealed off 675 others as collective punishment. The total need for new residential construction in the occupied territories was estimated at 15,000 units.

18. Despite Israeli practices, the Palestinian people continued to make progress towards self-reliance. Their efforts did not go unnoticed by Israel, which sought to repress the intifadah through various agricultural measures: for example, by destroying crops, instituting administrative measures that delayed crop movements, uprooting fruit and olive trees, spraying toxic chemicals on cultivated lands and increasing seed and fertilizer prices.

19. The recommendations in the UNCTAD report, particularly those directed at States and international organizations, were important in that they could help to revitalize the Palestinian economy. In that connection, the movement of exports from the occupied territories to European countries would have a beneficial impact. The United Nations should ensure that international assistance reached the Palestinian people in order to promote the economic development of the occupied territories.

20. Mr. MISSARY (Yemen) said that the profound upheavals which had occurred in the political arena had brought about scarcely any changes in the economic sphere. His country attached great importance to the role of the Economic and Social Council, which was entrusted by the Charter with the task of carrying out major economic projects. It was to be hoped that the new spirit of co-operation and dialogue would make it possible to close all the gaps which still separated countries.

21. While the Council had made considerable progress in its work on procedural issues, it must now focus more on real issues of substance. It was gratifying to note that at its second regular session of 1990, the Council had adopted many resolutions by consensus, including resolution 1990/63 on assistance in cases of natural disasters and other disaster situations and resolution 1990/78 on refugees, displaced persons and returnees, which had a genuine humanitarian focus.

(Mr. Missary, Yemen)

22. Unfortunately, peace did not yet prevail in the world, and there were still many zones of conflict. That was why his country, like Saudi Arabia, firmly hoped that resolutions 1990/53 on Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and 1990/59 on assistance to the Palestinian people would be duly taken into account and lead to concrete results.

23. Mr. WU Hoi Long (China) recalled that at the Council's most recent session many developing countries had expressed deep concern over the possible negative impact that the evolution of East-West relations might have on the economic development of the developing countries in general, and on financial flows in particular. Indeed, since the early 1980s, the growth of the developing countries had suffered serious setbacks, their economic position had become more fragile and the gap between them and the developed countries had widened. If the economies of the developing countries, whose population accounted for four fifths of the world's population, continued to stagnate for long, the world economy as a whole would be unable to maintain sustained and steady growth. Accordingly, the revitalization of the economies of the developing countries should be a priority on the international economic agenda, and the evolution of East-West relations should in no way distract the international community's attention from that question. It was therefore to be hoped that the high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council to be convened in 1991 would discuss the question in depth and formulate concrete proposals on ways to prevent the evolution of East-West relations from exerting a negative impact on the developing countries.

24. It also was essential to revitalize the Economic and Social Council in order to enable it to adapt to the new situation and meet the challenges of the 1990s. While the implementation of Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114 had resulted in some progress, further measures should be taken to strengthen the functions of the Council. In that regard, more executive heads of agencies and organs of the United Nations system should participate in the Council's meetings. All measures aimed at revitalizing the Council should be strictly guided by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

25. Transnational corporations played an increasingly significant role in the world economy, and the formulation of a code of conduct, which was one of the major tasks assigned to the Commission on Transnational Corporations, was in conformity not only with the interests of host countries, but also with those of transnational corporations themselves. After more than a decade of negotiations, agreement had been reached on most of the provisions, and the Council had transmitted a text reflecting the status of the negotiations to the current session of the General Assembly. Although it would be desirable to resolve the outstanding issues, even if that were not feasible his delegation would be prepared to endorse the adoption of the draft code of conduct by the General Assembly at its current session.

26. Mr. ALMABROUK (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said he welcomed the constructive spirit that had prevailed during the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session.

(Mr. Almabrouk, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

27. The delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was particularly satisfied to note the adoption of resolution 1990/61, on the fight against the screw-worm infestation. The disease, which was a threat to humans and animals alike, including cattle, in Africa and in the parts of Europe bordering on the Mediterranean, also affected the Jamahiriya, which was endeavouring, in collaboration with FAO, IFAD, UNDP and IAEA, to check the spread of the infestation. Unfortunately, only a few countries had access to the technique of insect sterilization, which was the only reliable method available. It was to be hoped that such countries would show a willingness to help, and co-operate in the eradication of the infestation.

28. With regard to Israeli economic practices in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, while reserving the right to revert to resolution 1990/53 at a later stage, he wished to voice his delegation's disappointment over the fact that the report requested by the Council in resolution 1989/86 had not been presented. He earnestly hoped that it would be available at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Meanwhile, in flagrant violation of international law and United Nations resolutions, Israel was continuing to rob the Palestinian people of its sovereignty over its own natural resources. It was continuing to carry out mass expulsions and displacements of the Palestian population and was pursuing its policy of settlement in the occupied Arab territories with the object of changing the demographic composition. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya denounced such practices and reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the peoples of the occupied Arab territories and their permanent sovereignty over their natural resources. It appealed to the international community to see that an end was put to the Zionist occupation, so that the Palestinian people could return to the land of its ancestors and found an independent State there.

29. Lastly, recalling that his country had hosted the 16th meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), he welcomed the resolutions that had been adopted (E/1990/84) and had been endorsed by the Economic and Social Council by consensus at its second regular session. He hoped that they would receive the necessary support at the current session of the General Assembly.

30. Mr. DEO (India) recalled that India had been host to the Global Consultation for Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held in New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990. Organized by UNDP, the Consultation had been co-sponsored by the United Nations Interagency Steering Committee for Co-operative Action for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990). The New Delhi Statement (A/C.2/40/3) had been adopted by 600 participants from 115 countries.

31. Coming as it had at the conclusion of the Decade launched after the Mar del Plata Declaration in 1977, the New Delhi Consultation had provided an opportunity to review the experience of the 1980s and evolve new strategies. By and large, the results were positive, even though, despite their sincere efforts, none of the developing countries had succeeded in providing a water supply to cover the entire

(Mr. Deo, India)

population. Meanwhile, the challenges that still faced the international community were formidable in view of rapid population growth, persistent pollution and the degradation of water resources.

32. In accordance with the four guiding principles of the New Delhi Statement, the the following goals must be pursued: the integrated management of water resources and wastes, institutional reform, community management of services and the adoption of sound financial practices.

33. Countries and aid agencies were urged to formulate water and sanitation action plans incorporating those guiding principles. Drinking water was a basic human need, and access to water was crucial to health, productivity and development. Through co-operation between developed and developing countries, substantial progress would be made in the years to come.

34. Mr. URIARTE (Chile) said he associated himself fully with the views expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77, and agreed with him that the radical changes in international relations gave cause for considerable concern as to the future of international co-operation for development.

35. The Charter gave the Economic and Social Council a central role with regard to the work of United Nations bodies in the economic, social and humanitarian fields. However, the Council had not so far been able to discharge its mandate to the full. Although the initiatives taken to revitalize the Council, in particular at the instigation of the Group of 77, were indeed welcome, as were the proposals made by the Secretary-General, the fact must be faced that much remained to be done. At a time when the end of the bloc policy was enabling the Organization to resume its proper political role, Member States were not displaying the same will when it came to economic and social problems. Parallel with the humanization process taking place in the political sphere, a trend towards dehumanization in the economic sphere could be observed.

36. The Chilean delegation was convinced that the time had come to undertake a radical reappraisal of the Council's role and genuinely address the issues which lay at the heart of the international community's concerns, rather than merely discussing such matters as documentation or rationalization of work. Full advantage must be taken of the consensus that had emerged at the eighteenth special session of the General Assembly and during the negotiations on the international development strategy for the fourth decade; boldness and fresh thinking must prevail and outdated negotiating procedures must be reconsidered. Thought might also be given to reducing the number of resolutions and concentrating only on the more fundamental issues that were universal in scope.

37. It might perhaps be useful in that connection to draw on the experience gained in the Security Council and to set up, in the case of the Economic and Social Council, an executive committee or a mechanism for informal consultations - composed of members selected according to the principle of equitable geographical and political distribution - which would meet in the intervals between the

(Mr. Uriarte, Chile)

Council's regular sessions to pursue the study of questions that were deemed to have priority and which, more importantly, could act in an emergency. The democratic Government of the Republic of Chile hoped, as of the following year, to be able to make a contribution on those lines within the Council.

38. Mrs. EHRENREICH (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries, said that her statement would be confined to the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, for improvements in those areas were essential to economic growth and social development in many developing countries.

39. The Decade had enabled significant progress to be made by giving new users access to drinking water (1.3 million) and to sanitation (700 million). New and affordable technologies had been developed. The UNDP Programme for the Promotion of the Role of Women in Water and Environmental Sanitation Services (PROWWESS) had also played an important part. UNICEF had also made an important contribution to those achievements. Yet one third of the world's population still did not have adequate access to drinking water supplies and proper sanitation.

40. The Nordic countries wholeheartedly supported the principles of the New Delhi Statement, which gave absolute priority to achieving universal coverage in water supply and sanitation by the year 2000, through increased action at the national and international levels.

41. At the national level, the public authorities must give higher priority to that sector and take steps to improve management. They must also address the problems posed by rapid population growth combined with a slow-down in economic growth, and the need for full participation by all segments of society, particularly women, NGOs and the private sector.

42. At the international level, more resources should be allocated to that area. The United Nations must continue to act as a catalyst and to co-ordinate global initiatives and strategies. Co-operation among organizations should be strengthened, and efforts to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making should be continued.

43. At the global level, the Nordic countries supported a strengthened dialogue among all multilateral and bilateral agencies within the Framework for Global Co-operation aiming at maintaining the Decade momentum into the 1990s. For the Collaborative Framework to perform its task satisfactorily, it was important that financial support should be secured from the regular budget of the United Nations through a redistribution of resources.

44. In conclusion, she commended the organizations of the United Nations system for their important contribution, and expressed the hope that other countries would, like the Nordic countries, renew their commitment to achieving the objectives of the Decade.

45. Mr. LAJIM (Malaysia) said that his delegation had always been a strong advocate of assistance to the Palestinian people and year after year, had sponsored the resolutions on that issue. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 had noted with grave concern that Israel's occupation of Arab territories had deprived the people of their sovereignty over their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development. Malaysia joined the call by the international community for the immediate lifting of Israeli restrictions and obstacles hindering the implementation of assistance projects by the United Nations Development Programme and other bodies, including the projects mentioned in General Assembly resolution 39/223. Trade concessions and concrete preferential measures should be granted for Palestinian exports on the basis of Palestinian certificates of origin. His delegation looked forward to studying the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/59, which would be presented at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

46. Malaysia recognized the important role played by entrepreneurship in the economic and social development of developing countries. Nevertheless, while it was true that growth depended on appropriate domestic economic policies, it was also true that such growth could not occur in the absence of a supportive international economic environment. His delegation looked forward to studying the report of the Secretary-General on measures to be undertaken at the national and international levels to promote the contribution of entrepreneurship.

47. Noting with concern that the economic and social consequences of the expansion of the AIDS pandemic posed a serious threat, particularly in countries with limited public health services, he said that his delegation supported the strengthening of the primary health care system. However, the struggle against AIDS should not divert attention from other national public health priorities. All organizations of the United Nations system, Governments and intergovernmental organizations should co-ordinate their efforts with those of the World Health Organization in implementing the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS, through the Inter-agency Advisory Group.

48. With regard to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors, and particularly the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, the objective should be to ensure optimum use of the necessary resources in support of the objectives determined by Member States. He wished to emphasize the need for caution in undertaking reforms, particularly when those reforms directly affected the interests of developing countries; the activities of committees and bodies that promoted the interests of developing countries should not be curtailed for the purpose of economizing.

49. To enable the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to carry out their responsibilities under the Charter, co-operation between all the organizations of the system must be further strengthened. Strong commitment and political support on the part of Member States would be necessary if the reforms were to be effectively implemented. It would be in the common interest of all countries to ensure that the bodies responsible for economic and social affairs

(Mr. Lajim, Malaysia)

were more responsive not only to current issues but also to emerging problems. In that connection, Malaysia wished to call for the full implementation of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114.

50. With regard to the code of conduct on transnational corporations, he recalled the four main issues that remained outstanding in the negotiations, and pointed out that, although it had not been possible to agree on the final draft of the Code, the vast majority of its provisions had already been accepted. It should not be too difficult, therefore, to reach agreement on compromise formulations of the remaining provisions, and his delegation hoped that the General Assembly could do so at the current session.

51. His delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the report on the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa; both those reports would contribute towards Africa's objective of achieving self-reliance at the national and regional levels. His delegation supported the idea of conducting a mid-Decade review and evaluation of the status of the World Decade for Cultural Development. It also noted with satisfaction the conclusions of the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s, held recently in New Delhi.

52. Mr. JONES (Australia) said that, since the previous session, the AIDS pandemic had grown dramatically. One of the most tragic aspects of the pandemic was the impact of AIDS on women and children (one third of those thought to be infected were women). Of the 30 million people expected to be HIV-infected by the beginning of the next decade, 3 million would be women of child-bearing age, and 10 million would be children.

53. The Australian Government continued to attach importance to the need for effective and co-ordinated international action to combat AIDS. The resolutions adopted by consensus in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had underscored the role of WHO in that area, thereby helping it to obtain and expand support in the field for its activities under the global strategy on AIDS. It was now especially important to guard aginst complacency and, in line with the recent Paris Declaration and World Health Assembly resolution 43/10, to give greater prominence to the effects of the pandemic on women and children.

54. Although AIDS was a global problem, its effects were particularly tragic in the developing countries. Australia therefore fully supported the work being undertaken, particularly by WHO and UNDP, in conjunction with other concerned agencies and with recipient Governments. The WHO/UNDP alliance was a milestone in that regard, establishing the framework for co-ordinated and complementary actions. There was a need to build on the initial phase in the fight against AIDS by increasing understanding of the development implications of the pandemic. His delegation was therefore pleased that UNDP, WHO and UNICEF had begun or were planning studies to address that issue.

(Mr. Jones, Australia)

55. In the Asia and Pacific region, the number of AIDS cases had increased significantly, and Australia had hosted a regional conference on the question. Australia would continue to support efforts to combat AIDS through the provision of funds, expertise and continued close co-operation with other countries. It would contribute $A 4 million for regional programmes over the period 1989-1993, in addition to the $A 2 million committed to WHO global programme on AIDS.

56. Natural disasters had also caused untold human suffering and economic and social dislocation. During 1990, the first year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, it was important to bear in mind that, although natural disasters could not be prevented, their impact could be lessened. His delegation welcomed the work being done by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. Australia, for its part, was participating in the regional preparedness programme, which was designed to help developing countries to develop their own capabilities in responding to natural disasters.

57. The United Nations was ideally located to play a leading role in helping developing countries to cope with problems such as AIDS and natural disasters; however, its economic and social machinery was hampered by outmoded and cumbersome organizational structures. At a time when the United Nations was improving its performance in the fields of international peace and security, there had been little real improvement in the way in which the economic and social machinery operated. Some decisions had been taken during the previous year concerning the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, but little had been actually achieved. If the economic side of the Organization's operations was to become more relevant to the real world, its Members must first ask themselves what the objectives of the economic and social machinery should be, and then set about tailoring the organizational structure to meet those objectives. One step would be to explore the linkages between the Economic and Social Council and the Second and Third Committees, together with their linkages with the subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the regional commissions. Unless such a broad appraisal was undertaken, the incremental approach applied to date was unlikely to produce significant results. As his delegation had stressed before, the objective of the reform exercise was not to cut costs, but to achieve results and increase programme efficiency.

58. Mr. TENNEY (Israel) said that the report of the Economic and Social Council was generally encouraging and, thanks to the major developments in Eastern Europe, which Israel welcomed, the climate for the Council's summer session had been favourable. Those developments had enlarged the family of democratic nations and meant that Soviet Jews were at last entirely free to emigrate to Israel.

59. Another positive element was that the Council had recognized the centrality of the human factor in development and the importance of popular participation and pluralism. Resource transfers and international financing were not enough to bring about sustained development in the developing countries. As the experience of Israel and other countries had shown, it was important to invest in people and to create a political and social environment that facilitated the participation and integration of the entire population.

(Mr. Tenney, Israel)

60. Another noteworthy element of the report was the idea that the revival of growth and development in the developing countries should remain a priority objective of international economic co-operation. However, that idea had been seriously compromised by the Gulf crisis and the consequent skyrocketing of oil prices, which had grave consequences for the oil-importing developing countries and the world economy in general.

61. His delegation joined with previous speakers in calling for an emergency meeting of the Economic and Social Council to examine the situation in the oil market with the oil-producing and oil-consuming member countries of the International Energy Agency. The oil-producing countries still had unused production capacity, and the oil-consuming countries had large strategic reserves. The rise in oil prices was due to psychological factors and speculation, not to a disequilibrium between supply and demand. The shortfall of 4.5 million barrels a day brought about by the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti production had been rapidly offset by increased production in other countries, and the problem of refining capacity had also been resolved. In the circumstances, convening the Economic and Social Council could be extremely useful. The very fact of holding such a meeting, with the participation and approval of the oil-producing and oil-consuming countries, might be enough to dampen speculative ardour and stabilize the market. In the opinion of many experts, there was no reason why current oil prices should exceed those of recent years.

62. Given the importance and the number of economic and social problems on its agenda, it was most regrettable that the Second Committee should be wasting precious time on questions involving the Arab-Israeli conflict, which was a purely political issue. Experience had shown that, far from helping to improve the economic and social situation in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, the resolutions of the Second Committee on those questions encouraged extremist factions in the Arab world, the foremost of which was the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which remained the real obstacle to peace. It was entirely illogical for such a forum to discuss the acts of violence, the so-called "intifadah", which had dealt a brutal blow to the economic and social well-being of those territories. The Saudi delegation had cited figures, but Israel was not in agreement regarding the causes for the deterioration of the situation. Moreover, there was surely no grounds for glorifying the intifadah, which, according to the head of the PLO himself, was not a struggle to reach an agreement or a political solution. The goal of the so-called revolutionary activities of the PLO was to build a Palestinian State on the ruins of Israel, even if it was to be done in stages.

63. In any event, the Arab-Israeli conflict - including the Palestinian problem, the political complexity of which was well known - had no place in the discussions of the Second Committee. The Second Committee could not conceivably make any realistic, constructive suggestions in that regard, even in the economic and social areas within its purview. Israel hoped whole-heartedly for peace in the region and was working unceasingly towards that goal, as demonstrated by its latest peace initiative. However, until peace was achieved, Israel had sole responsibility, both morally and in international law, for the well-being of the Arab population of

(Mr. Tenney, Israel)

Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, and its policy was to use every means to increase the economic and social well-being of the population in co-operation with the international organizations concerned. That policy was the only possible explanation for the spectacular development that had taken place in those territories.

64. If they wanted to contribute to the peace process in the region, the Second Committee and the other United Nations economic and social organs should encourage any initiative that would establish ties in the form of economic co-operation, even indirect, between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Such ties would contribute to the well-being of all the region's inhabitants, Arabs and Jews alike, and might pave the way for peace. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel had proposed the establishment of such co-operation in a statement made in the plenary meeting on 1 October 1990.

65. Mr. LUFTI (Jordan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, according to the statement of the representative of Israel, living conditions in the occupied Arab territories had improved immensely. In that case, why were the Palestinians unhappy? Why were they revolting against the Israeli occupying forces? Why were there hundreds of Palestinians martyrs? Something was wrong either with the Palestinian and Arab perception of the Israeli occupation or with the Israeli claims, such as those just made by the representative of Israel. There was no justification for the latter's contention that the figures cited by the representative of Saudi Arabia were wrong. The Israeli representative should have taken the time to visit the United Nations library and to look at the hundreds of resolutions adopted by almost every organ of the United Nations system condemning Israeli policy and practices in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories over the past 23 years. If it were true that the occupation and annexation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and the exploitation of their natural resources had been meant to improve the living conditions of the indigenous Arab population, it would be evidence of a new theory of economic development: development and growth through the occupation, annexation and exploitation of the indigenous population as a source of cheap labour. It would even be tempting to say that it was in the interest of every developing country to invite Israel to occupy and exploit its territory in order to achieve development and improve living conditions. Even without going over past Israeli policies and practices in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, it could be seen that present realities held little promise for a better future.

66. Mr. TAYEB (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, while the Israeli representative had stated that the Second Committee was not the appropriate forum for discussing political issues, that representative himself had underscored the political aspect of the problem. As for the figures cited by the Saudi Arabian delegation, they had been taken from United Nations documents and accurately reflected the situation. The Israeli representative would have done better not to mention the issue.

67. Mr. TENNEY (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that if, as the Jordanian delegation was complaining, Israel was present in the territories, it was because that situation had been imposed on Israel by the 1967 war. In the light of the grievances against Israel, the simplest solution would be to sit down at the negotiating table and attempt to resolve the problem.

68. The CHAIRMAN said that the general debate on agenda item 12 was closed, with the exception of the questions relating to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and to international co-operation to address and ameliorate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
17th meeting
held on
19 October 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 148: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.17
24 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-56414 2772S (E)

/...

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 148: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued) (A/C.2/45/L.7)

Draft resolution A/C.2/45/L.7

1. Mr. NAVAJAS-MOGRO (Bolivia), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, said the draft resolution was self-explanatory, and he hoped that the Committee would give it its unreserved support.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

SECOND COMMITTEE
18th meeting
held on
Monday, 22 October 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PAPADATOS (Greece)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 87: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA (continued)

This record is subject to correction.
Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, Room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.2/45/SR.18
26 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

90-56441 2770S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 86: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/45/224, 584 and 598)

(b) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/45/3, 479, 483, 494, 505, 547, 562, 566; A/C.2/45/2)

AGENDA ITEM 87: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION OF ANGOLA (continued) (A/45/551 and 598)

1. Mr. ESSAAFI (Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator) praised the exemplary international solidarity shown in support of the victims of the major earthquake in north-western Iran in June 1990. UNDRO, in its co-ordinating role, had taken steps to avoid duplication of work, co-operate with all sources of internal and external assistance, and provide rapid and sound information on the damage and needs. United Nations agencies - such as the United Nations Development Programme, through its Disaster Management Team - had provided valuable co-operation. The work of the Disaster Management Team, particularly its assessment missions, had been facilitated by the co-operation of the national and local authorities and population of Iran.

2. After the relief phase, UNDRO had co-ordinated a multi-agency technical team in order to prepare proposals for a technical co-operation programme. Every effort had been made to ensure that mitigation was fully taken into account in reconstruction plans. The documents prepared for the technical co-operation programme included an international appeal for building materials and equipment; a technical report on the characteristics of the earthquake and an overview of the main causes of damage; and a draft project document entitled "Assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Implementation of a Post-Earthquake Emergency Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme". The project was to be financed from UNDP's Special Projects Programme resources and through cost-sharing.

3. UNDRO had carried out its work in close co-operation with, inter alia, the Iranian Housing Foundation. On completion of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/494), UNDRO had based its activities on reports of the Iranian Government dealing mainly with housing reconstruction and budgetary matters.

4. In conclusion, UNDRO appealed to all donor countries to provide the financial support required for meeting its programme objectives within the proposed time-frame.

5. Mr. BAKER (Director, Unit for Special Emergency Programmes) reiterated the guiding principles of emergency assistance in conflict situations, namely, (a) that delivery of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations must be recognized as a neutral act; (b) that such assistance must be provided to all persons in need without discrimination, wherever they were situated; (c) that adequate security conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance must be guaranteed; and

(d) that needs must be assessed and deliveries monitored in order to ensure that the level of assistance was appropriate and that the supplies reached the intended recipients.

6. He then introduced the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operational Lifeline Sudan (A/45/547). Operational Lifeline Sudan was an example of a successful United Nations relief operation - the outcome of agreement, reached by both sides to a conflict, on a common relief effort. While generous donations for food had averted mass starvation in the Sudan, funding for non-food sectors was inadequate, which meant that health, water and sanitation programmes might be curtailed or discontinued and that new programmes could not be initiated. Insufficient rainfall in the first half of 1990 would certainly aggravate the food shortage, which also affected Chadian and Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan.

7. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to Somalia (A/45/483), he stressed that interim assistance measures must be followed up by long-term, structured programmes, including resettlement and repatriation. Until such programmes were in place, continued food assistance from donor countries would be appreciated.

8. The report on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States (A/45/479) outlined the activities undertaken by Member States in 1990 in response to appeals for assistance and United Nations activities to assist front-line States in their social and economic development.

9. The report on emergency assistance to Mozambique (A/45/562) showed the evolution of the emergency relief programme and provided a sectoral breakdown of responses to the 1990/91 appeals for assistance. It also highlighted the painful truth that international support tended to diminish for prolonged crises. Indeed, in the fourth year of Mozambique's emergency assistance programme, donor contributions had dropped from $330 million in 1987 to a current low of $104.4 million. That dwindling support had limited the Government's ability to assist 1.4 million internally displaced persons and more than 200,000 voluntary returnees from neighbouring countries. With the opening of roads to inaccessible areas and the liberation of other zones, further thousands of externally displaced persons would return.

10. The report of the Secretary-General on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola (A/45/551) detailed United Nations activities and focused on a donors' round table in 1991, to be organized by UNDP. In preparation for the round table, economic planning projects in Angola were being strengthened and the World Bank and the African Development Bank were preparing sectoral studies. Assistance to Angola was expected to amount to $179 million in 1990 and an additional $240 million in 1991.

(Mr. Baker)

11. In response to the appeal for emergency assistance to the drought-stricken provinces of southern Angola, an expanded special relief programme was expected to become operational on 1 November. The programme was intended to reach famine victims, in both drought-stricken and conflict areas.

12. The continued success of the special emergency assistance programmes depended on a commitment by the affected Governments, effective co-ordination by the United Nations system, and a generous response from the international community.

13. Mr. ABU-JAWDEH (Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/45/566), drew attention to the violent and unstable situation in Lebanon during the past year. Armed conflict had resulted in loss of life, heavy damage to the country's basic infrastructure, greatly reduced economic activity and increased poverty. Public services had not been operational for five months, in early 1990, affecting half the Lebanese population. Tens of thousands of people continued to emigrate.

14. Since the end of the reporting period in July 1990, there had been major developments. At the national level, reunification of the Lebanese army had re-established the Government's authority over greater Beirut, breaking a two-year deadlock. At the regional level, the Gulf crisis had seriously affected the Lebanese economy. Since early August, 55 000 Lebanese had returned from the Gulf area, aggravating the country's unemployment situation. There was great concern about Lebanese bank deposits and physical and business assets in Kuwait. It was estimated that trade and service-related losses for the second half of 1990 would amount to $US 300 million as a result of the Gulf crisis and that damage to the economy would be equivalent to more than 20 per cent of Lebanon's gross domestic product. The country's annual oil bill would cost an additional $US 1 million. Depreciation of the Lebanese pound by 46 per cent had triggered another inflationary spiral. Those economic developments had grave consequences on the social situation of Lebanon. So far, economic assistance had been limited to $US 100 million from Saudi Arabia.

15. None the less, the past year had seen some positive developments, including the launching of the national reconciliation process on 13 October, the proposal by the Tripartite Committee of Arab Heads of State to create an International Fund for Assistance to Lebanon, and the provision of sufficient emergency relief and rehabilitation assistance, from official sources and international organizations, to meet the needs of the Lebanese population. The United Nations system had maintained its active role in Lebanon, co-ordinating nearly 20 per cent of the total commitments from official sources - amounting to $US 20 million - in 1989 and, most likely, in 1990 as well. UNDP had reactivated its operations in Lebanon on a case-by-case basis at the Government's request and would resume large-scale technical assistance when peace and stability were restored.

(Mr. Abu-Jawdeh)

16. At a time when the plight of the civilian populatien was more serious than ever, a firm commitment from donors was of great importance. In that connection, UNDRO, in co-operation with the Office of the Co-ordinator of United Nations Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon, had organized a donor information meeting at Geneva in 1990. The United Nations was endeavouring to mobilize additional resources in order to maintain certain essential programmes.

17. During the new reporting period, emergency relief and assistance for the rehabilitation of essential socio-economic services would also include training and basic data generation as part of an integrated approach. Other, traditional, elements of that approach were distribution, basic support to delivery systems, promotion of self-reliance and income earning.

18. United Nations assistance would continue its efforts to involve government structures in the planning and implementation of assistance programmes and non-governmental organizations at the field level; to promote and support national programmes, and to select projects and beneficiaries on the basis of need.

19. In conclusion, adequate human and financial resources were necessary to enable specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations to pursue their activities. The restoration of peace and stability in Lebanon was a prerequisite for implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/180.

20. Mr. ADEI (United Nations Development Programme) said that, on 22 May 1990, the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen had merged to form the Republic of Yemen. Before unification, the two countries had been in the least developed country category and the same held true for the unified Republic of Yemen. For that reason, the Governing Council of UNDP in its decision 90/34 had decided that the indicative planning figure (IPF) for Yemen in the fifth cycle would be no less than the combined IPF of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Yemen Arab Republic in the fourth cycle. Had that decision not been taken, the IPF for unified Yemen for the fifth cycle would have been considerably lower.

21. The unification of Yemen had underscored that country's need to build up a national capacity to manage both development and disasters. Apart from the initial costs of the unification and restructuring process, the recent return of a large number of Yemeni workers from the Gulf countries would place added demands on Yemen's limited resources. Initial estimates received from the Government of Yemen on the economic impact of the Gulf crisis on Yemen were just below $1.7 billion. Even if the final figure was different, it was clear that the Yemeni Government would be unable to deal with the problem. That matter was being pursued by representatives of Yemen in appropriate international forums.

22. Mr. MORAIS (Angola) said that, for more than 13 years, Angola and its people had suffered tremendous losses of life and property as a result of South African aggression, and the country was in dire need of external assistance. In its resolution 44/168, the General Assembly appealed to the international community to render the substantial financial, material and technical assistance necessary for the economic rehabilitation of Angola.

(Mr. Morais, Angola)

23. Since 1988, the Government of Angola had taken a series of measures to stabilize the economy. It had developed its Programme of Economic and Financial Reform in order to reduce the budget deficit, reformulate credit policies, review the system of price and exchange rate control, and restructure State enterprises. However, that Programme, which was being followed closely by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, entailed extremely high social costs, and Angola required the international community's assistance in sparing the war-battered Angolan people from making further sacrifices. Moreover, such assistance was indispensable for an overall solution of the country's problems.

24. The Government of Angola welcomed the proposal by UNDP to hold a donors' round table, and hoped that it would provide the assistance necessary for carrying out its priority objectives, namely, rural replanning throughout the country; the development, jointly with Namibia, of the water potential of the Kunene River; the economic development of its southern provinces through the promotion of agriculture and mining; the restoration of transport links with neighbouring countries; the rational use of fishing resources; and the development of energy and mining resources in order to finance economic and social development.

25. Angola hoped that the Secretary-General would continue encouraging the international community to mobilize the resources necessary for the economic rehabilitation of Angola.

26. Mr. OSMAN (Somalia) said that the termination on 31 August 1990 of the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme had been untimely and, on 1 September 1990, the President of Somalia had sent a message to the Secretary-General requesting an extension of the Programme in order to ensure that the displaced persons and refugees would not suffer unduly from the Programme's abrupt end. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had also requested that the Programme should be extended for at least six months. Despite those appeals, the Emergency Programme had been terminated, causing great hardship and human suffering.

27. Somalia had always supported voluntary repatriation as the best solution to its refugee problems. So far, it had managed to repatriate only a few hundred of the refugees awaiting repatriation. It could not be blamed if its repatriation programme was not being carried out within the expected time-frame, because the termination of the Emergency Programme had had an adverse effect on Somalia's refugee programmes.

28. Somalia required assistance to meet the long-term reconstruction and development needs of the people living in the north-western districts. Unfortunately, the response of the international community had so far been inadequate. Donors had been reluctant to provide resources for reconstruction activities so long as conditions in the affected areas remained unstable. However, the situation in the north-western districts had improved, and the international community and organizations of the United Nations system could resume their assistance to that part of the country.

(Mr. Osman, Somalia)

29. His Government had recently taken far-reaching steps towards political liberalization. It had adopted a new Constitution, released all political prisoners and enacted legislation providing for elections, a multiparty system and a free press. As Somalia entered a new era in its history, its government and people would expect support and co-operation from the international community. Somalia called upon the Secretary-General to reconsider the termination of the Emergency Programme. The General Assembly at its current session should adopt interim measures for providing humanitarian assistance to displaced persons and refugees until the situation in the north-western districts was stabilized. His Government intended to submit a draft resolution on emergency assistance to Somalia at the appropriate time.

30. Mr. AL-ALFI (Yemen) said that the General Assembly had adopted resolution 44/179 on assistance to Democratic Yemen, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1990, on the implementation of that resolution. His delegation wished to know what had become of that report and why there had been only an oral presentation from the representative of UNDP. It also requested confirmation as to whether the Secretary-General had submitted a report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Consideration of the matter of assistance should be deferred until the report was received.

31. The CHAIRMAN said that it would not be possible to provide the representative of Yemen with an immediate answer. The Committee secretariat would look into the matter and answer his questions at a subsequent meeting.

32. Mr. DUARTE (Cape Verde), speaking on agenda item 86 (a), expressed his thanks for the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/271 and Corr.1) and the remarks of the representative of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. He also welcomed the emphasis placed on the role of UNDRO in General Assembly resolution 44/236, proclaiming the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The international community and UNDRO were to be commended for their humanitarian assistance to countries dealing with natural and man-made disasters. His delegation particularly appreciated the continued contacts between UNDRO and the Organization of African Unity in the context of disaster relief, preparedness and prevention activities in Africa.

33. Over the years, United Nations programmes of special economic assistance to developing countries had unfailingly been supported by the Committee in its draft resolutions. He commended the documents before the Committee under the item and expressed support for the statement made by the representative of Mozambique at the eleventh meeting.

34. Turning to agenda item 87, he expressed full support for the statement made by the representative of Angola and his delegation's solidarity with the people of that country. The report of the Secretary-General on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola (A/45/551) gave an excellent overview of

(Mr. Duarte, Cape Verde)

Angola's efforts to implement its economic recovery programme and of the assistance from the international community in that undertaking. He appealed to the United Nations system and international donors to participate in the round table meeting to be organized by UNDP and to respond more effectively to Angola's request for assistance at such an important stage in the country's history.

35. Mr. WEIBGEN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), speaking on agenda item 87, recalled that the commercial agricultural sector and commercial infrastructure of Angola had collapsed with the departure of Portuguese farmers and traders on the eve of independence. While the Angolan Government had originally implemented an agricultural policy based on the formation of peasant associations and co-operatives, policy reorientations in the past two years had recognized that the traditional farming sector should be both the beneficiary and the agent for overall socio-economic development.

36. While Angola possessed extremely rich fishery and forestry resources, both those sectors had encountered major problems following independence, as had the livestock industry. The food, nutrition and health status of the Angolan population had also been deteriorating since 1985.

37. Co-operation between FAO and Angola had begun soon after independence. A number of emergency and regular projects had subsequently been financed by the FAO Technical Co-operation Programme, which had been instrumental in responding to urgent and unprogrammed needs of the Angolan Government over the years. The Government appreciated the simplified presentation, speed of approval and implementation of development projects under that Programme, which had attracted increasing amounts of bilateral and multilateral assistance.

38. The second UNDP country programme for Angola, for the period 1987-1991, had been approved with an IPF allocation of $24.5 million, of which $8.7 million had been earmarked for agriculture, forestry and fishery projects. A serious problem faced by FAO in the execution of such projects was the fact that its principal counterpart technical institutions were all situated in the province most seriously affected by UNITA acts of sabotage. Nevertheless, FAO was prepared to expand its co-operation with the Government of Angola in its efforts to rehabilitate and strengthen its economy in general, and the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors in particular.

39. Mr. MAHMOUD (Lebanon), speaking on agenda item 86 (b), said that the Secretary-General's report on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/45/566) gave a detailed account of the Organization's activities in his country. As a result of the continuing instability in various parts of the country, those activities had been restricted for the most part to the humanitarian field, focusing on the provision of basic necessities to victims of the emergency situation. That situation had affected all aspects of public and private life, as described in chapter II of the report.

(Mr. Mahmoud, Lebanon)

40. The crisis in the Gulf had also had tremendous adverse effects on the Lebanese economy, currency and standard of living. Of particular importance was the fact that the Lebanese communities in Kuwait and Iraq, estimated at 45,000 and 20,000 respectively, had been the main financial support of thousands of families in Lebanon. Given that Lebanon imported 70 per cent of its needs, those remittances had been crucial in offsetting the deficit in the balance of trade. Lebanese returning from Iraq and Kuwait were likely to face unemployment.

41. Exports to the Gulf region in recent years had constituted 40 per cent to 50 per cent of all Lebanese exports; the events in the Gulf had caused exports to decline, resulting in losses estimated at $425 million per annum. Sharp increases in oil prices would also cost the Lebanese economy $300 million per annum, and the services sector, traditionally oriented to serving the Gulf countries, would suffer a $250 million loss per annum. All those factors had brought about a sharp decline in the value of the Lebanese currency and a fourfold increase in the cost of living.

42. It was to be hoped that new political developments in Lebanon would bring greater peace and stability, thereby enabling United Nations agencies to increase their presence in the field and to resume implementation of their projects. The Lebanese Government was about to establish a new body which would report directly to the Prime Minister; it would bear responsibility for reconstruction and development projects and co-ordinate bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes.

43. He appealed to the United Nations system and the international community to contribute towards the planning, implementation and financing of projects for rebuilding the country's infrastructure so that basic services could be provided and health, education and human resources institutions rehabilitated. He also expressed the appreciation of the Lebanese Government and people for the assistance rendered by donor countries, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, and commended the ongoing commitment of the Secretary-General to emergency relief efforts in Lebanon.

44. Mr. CORREIA (Guinea-Bissau) said that, like other delegations, his delegation fully supported the provision of international assistance to Angola. Accordingly, he appealed to the international community to redouble its efforts to that end.

45. Mr. DA COSTA PEREIRA (Portugal), speaking on agenda item 87, said that his Government had followed the situation in Angola with concern and had supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution 44/168 on international assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola. He welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on that topic and expressed the hope that rehabilitation measures could be implemented as soon as possible. International co-operation would complement the efforts being made by the Angolan Government. In that connection, he looked forward to the outcome of the forthcoming donor round table being prepared by UNDP.

(Mr. Da Costa Pereira, Portugal)

46. Peace talks between the parties to the strife in Angola were being held at Lisbon under the auspices of his Government. It was to be hoped that Angolans would ultimately be able to live in a climate of peace and stability conducive to their economic development which would contribute to peace throughout southern Africa.

47. Mr. RODRIGUEZ (Cuba) said that his delegation attached great importance to agenda item 87. Cuba had witnessed the acts of aggression and destabilization perpetrated in Angola by South Africa and other foreign Powers, and therefore welcomed the concern shown by the United Nations on those matters.

48. He was pleased to note in the Secretary-General's report the number of donors that had pledged to assist the Angolan people in addition to the many which had already done so. Cuba would continue, to the best of its ability, to assist the Angolan people, to whom it had close ties. Cuba was well aware of the important role that that people had played in southern Africa and in the cause of Namibian independence. The United Nations system must take adequate measures to assist the Angolan Government, and the international community must participate actively in the UNDP donor round table.

49. Mr. HAMADZIRIPI (Zimbabwe) commended the Secretary-General for his report on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States (A/45/479) and expressed gratitude to all States and organizations of the United Nations system that had reported on their implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/181. However, while many more countries and organizations than those listed in the report had assisted the front-line States in their quest for economic development and self-reliance, the number of States informing the Secretary-General of their activities had declined as compared with the previous year. He therefore urged all States to facilitate the preparation of a more comprehensive report by reporting fully on their assistance.

50. Significant developments had taken place in southern Africa during the preceding year which held out real hope for improvement in the political and economic environment of the region. Nevertheless, the effects of past and current acts of aggression and destabilization, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, continued to impede the development efforts of the countries of the region.

51. Complacency was therefore inappropriate. Continued assistance was urgently needed. In that connection, he welcomed the Nordic countries' long-term perspective on aid in the post-apartheid era, which was reflected in paragraph 42 of the report.

52. Mr. CARVALHO (Brazil), speaking on agenda item 87, said that United Nations efforts for the economic rehabilitation of Angola constituted a timely initiative which deserved the support of all Member States. Brazil, for its part, had had a long-standing commitment to help Angola overcome acts of aggression and destabilization. The time had come for the international donor community, particularly the developed countries, to focus on the plight of the Angolan people.

(Mr. Carvalho, Brazil)

53. It was unfortunate that the Secretary-General's report did not provide more information on South-South co-operation over the years, including the efforts of Brazil to assist Angola despite its own economic difficulties. During the past year, Brazil had helped the Angolan Rural Development Institute and Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen their planning capacities, and further ways of co-operation in that area were being sought. Assistance had also been provided for rebuilding the transport infrastructure, and for charcoal production involving the transfer of reforestation technologies and expertise from Brazil to Angola.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.